

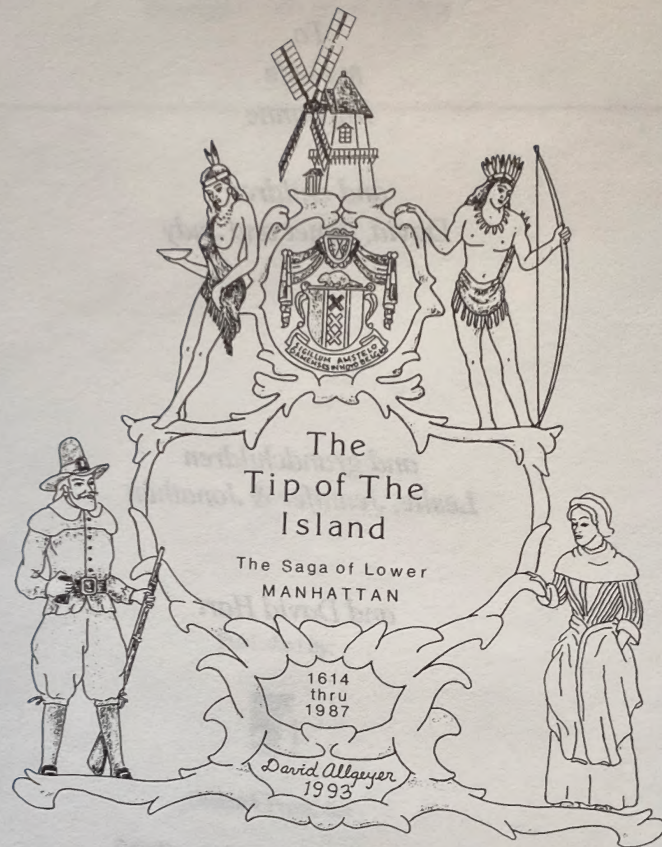
THE TIP OF THE ISLAND

The saga of lower Manhattan

written by
David Allgeyer

layout by
Phillip Sperry





PREFACE

Why in the world would an old retired former executive living in Arkansas, who is not a historian, has never written a book about anything, and has spent relatively little time in New York want to write a book about the lower tip of Manhattan Island? Probably the most compelling reason is that I consider it the most fascinating if not most important place on earth! No single tiny piece of real estate in this country or throughout the entire world has had the impact on recent history as has lower Manhattan. No tiny piece of real estate has undergone such profound physical changes as has the tip of the island. And perhaps most importantly, no other single place on earth has played as important a role in establishing this great nation as the worlds bastion of democracy and truly the land of opportunity.

The island of Manhattan stretches about 14 miles from it's southern to its northern tip, and is a little over 2 miles wide in places, boasting about 43 miles of shoreline. But this book concerns itself primarily with only that tiny portion of the southern tip of the island below what was the old fresh water "Collect Pond" in the days of the early Dutch settlers, as shown on the map of Manhattan Island in the early 1600's following this Preface.

Fortunately there is a good deal of reference material available on the subject and area because of the prominent role it played in American history. Surprisingly, a good deal of material is even available on the original little settlement of New Amsterdam. Old maps and records of lands granted by the Dutch West India Company to the towns first inhabitants, etc. actually presented a picture of the early towns buildings and inhabitants in greater and more accurate detail than at any time since. One of the best reference sources was that of a plan of the town drawn by Jacques Cortelyou at the request of the town's burgomasters in 1660. This plan became known as the "Castello Plan," and a subsequent, equally well detailed copy was made of it in 1670 and became known as the redraft of the Castello Plan. My Map I "A Plan of the Town of New Amsterdam" Is based primarily on those plans.

Maps II thru VI show the faint outline of the 1987 shoreline of map VII, so that one can see the relationship of size from the time of the original town in 1660 thru its growth to its present size . . . all in correct registration and orientation.

When I decided to undertake the task of writing this book which began over two years ago, I suppose I was responding for the most part to what I felt was an opportunity to develop

and present a historical picture/story of the area in a somewhat different format than had been done by anything I had previously encountered. I have always been interested in early American history and maps, pictures and paintings dealing with the subject. During the course of my visits to the corporate office in New York of the firm with which I was associated during most of my working career, I developed a fascination for the historically rich area of the southern tip of Manhattan and an appreciation for all it's grandeur. Eventually I came to the conclusion that while many good books and a great deal of material had been published on the subject, they always seemed to me to be much too broad in the scope of their contents. I would create a new kind of a book on the subject, dealing only with the historically rich southern tip of the island ... more consolidated and chronologically organized, with new correlated maps portraying in as much detail as possible the area as it had become in the period covered by the corresponding text.

All of the maps in this book are new. They are of course based on existing old maps and various reference sources. Based on the simple premise that recent maps are more accurate than very old ones of the same area, I started with the development of map VII for 1987. All of the other maps were then developed to coincide with the physical topography of the current map ... in other words, the details of shorelines, streets, buildings, etc. were correlated to as best possible agree with whatever corresponding details applied for the same area at a different time period. This provides the correct relationship of details regardless of which maps are being viewed or compared, and to see and understand more accurately the changes to the town, it's streets, shoreline and other features as they progress from chapter to chapter thru the years. To my knowledge this has never been done before for any geographical area ... the development of correlated maps of the same scale and orientation over a period of nearly 400 years and a corresponding historical text of the area.

I personally find the history of the area's early and formative years to be somewhat more interesting than more current years, and have arranged the text to cover about 50 year periods with corresponding maps and places of interest for the period from the 1600's thru the 1800's. The last chapter covers the 1900's thru about 1987, with relatively current places of interest and a corresponding map of the area.

Each of the books six chapters has its own map pertaining to topographical details, shorelines, streets, locations of listed places of interest, etc., as they were around the end of that particular period. As the reader moves from chapter to chapter, the changes which have taken place since the map corresponding to the previous 50 year period are therefor quite evident and

easily discernable. Since all of the maps have been correlated to an exact size, scale and orientation, one can easily relate how any specific area or detail has changed for the same exact relative location from period to period . . . from the early settlement of the area in the early 1600's thru the awesome concentration of the steel, glass and concrete of today. On the page opposite the maps at the front of each chapter is a numerical listing of the places of interest shown on the corresponding map, many of which are mentioned in the text. What I have attempted to do with the structuring of this book is to develop and organize a rather concise chronological history of the area and present it in a manner which is more interesting and easily followed than any historical work I have seen in the past. That essentially involved developing the story and contents in three ways:

1. A general text of the chronological history of the area, it's people and events.
2. A chronological listing and brief description of places of interest during corresponding time periods.
3. Completely correlated maps for each time period including the locations of the places of interest.

Whether or not I have succeeded in what I have attempted to do can only be judged by the reaction of you the reader.

I have tried to interpret the occasional discrepancies I encountered between some of the many reference sources I referred to in this undertaking, to as best possible assure the accuracy of my work, but would hesitate to claim it to be flawless and 100 percent accurate down to the last tiny detail. Undertakings of this nature seldom are, and I suspect this book is no exception.

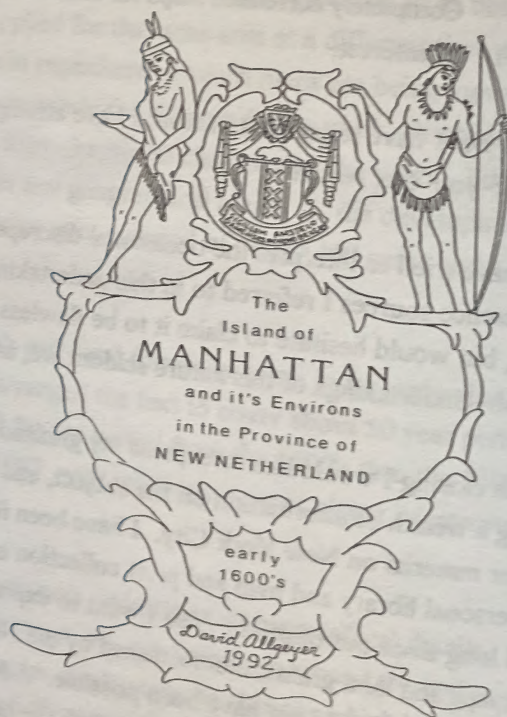
In closing I would like to express my gratitude for all those who have gone before me in amassing a wealth of information on the subject, and producing all those wonderful books, maps and other material on New York City. I have been fortunate in accumulating quite a few of them in my personal library and map and print collection over the years, most of which are now quite old and long since out of print. Also I want to express my appreciation for the invaluable copies of old maps and land grants, etc. furnished by the New York Historical Society, and without which this effort would not have been possible. Additional thanks go to Joe Barsocchi and Graham Blue Print Co. in Little Rock, and all the helpful folks at COSS and The Oldbuck Press

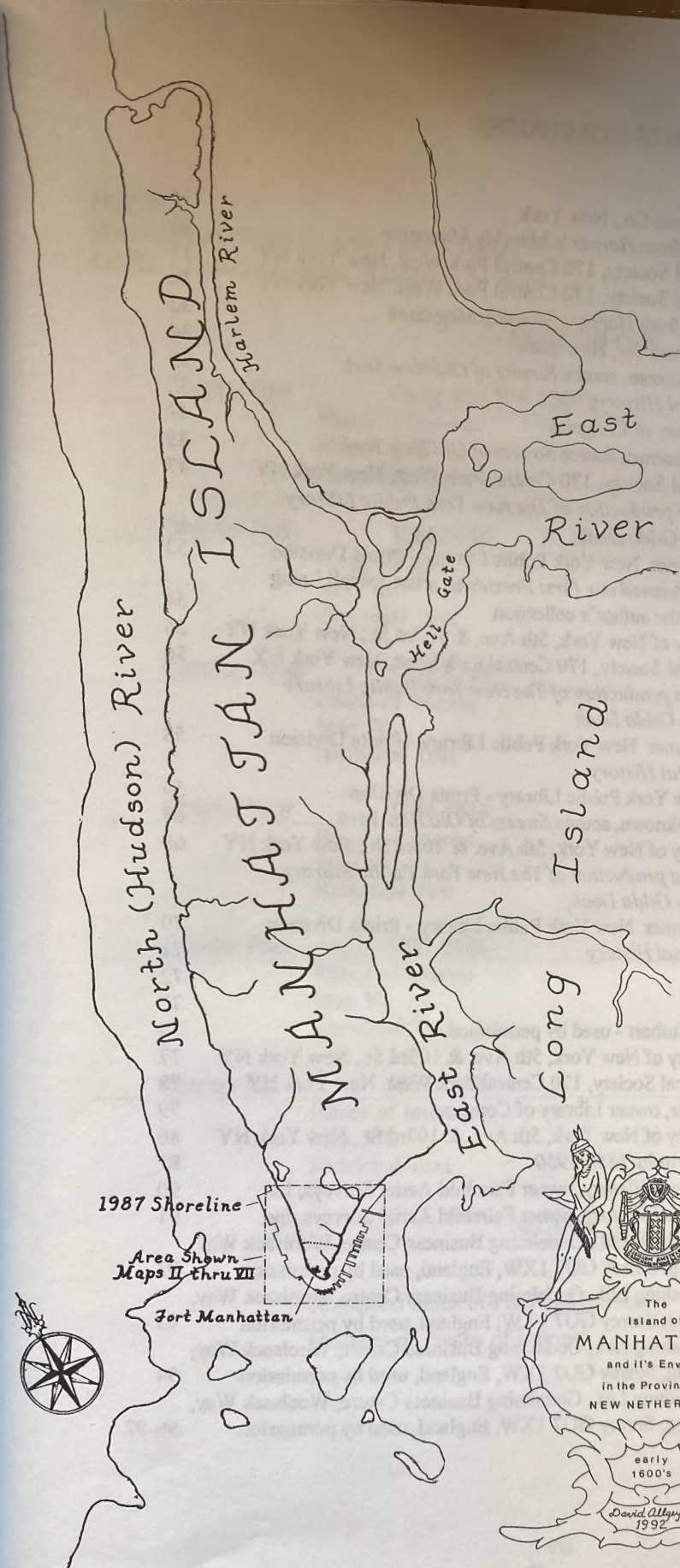
here in Conway, Arkansas . . . especially in the development of the maps and art work. And special thanks to my wife Marianne for encouraging me to continue in this endeavor when I began wondering whether or not it was really worth all the time and effort.

To all who have been of inspiration and help along the way, to all Manhattanites past, present and future, and to everyone who believes as I do that the little tip of the island has always been and will always be the most fascinating and exciting place on earth . . . I dedicate this book. I hope the people, places and events as I have presented them has brought an increased measure of understanding and appreciation for the area.

David Allgeyer

July 4, 1993





The Tip of the Island

*On an island's tip
in the wilderness
New Amsterdam was founded*

*At first the Dutch
then the English came*

The toll had been sounded

*The town
into a city grew
with buildings everywhere*

*Then thru the years
the skyline too
rose sharply in the air*

*The story
of this magic place
to you I now unfold*

*This wondrous place
with the changing face
Its story must be told*

David Allgeyer

July 4, 1993



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GUIDE

For locating places of interest shown by numbers on maps

There are many structures and sites of historical interest referred to throughout the text. The locations of some 120 of these are shown by number on the various maps. Those shown are listed on the page opposite the map, and are also listed and described in the Numerical Index and Outlines segments of Section Two. Thus, when the text or a margin note indicates a place of interest, i.e., (see 15), the reader has the option of referring to the map locations and/or outlines in Section Two . . . or waiting until a later time to review the maps and/or outlines in Section Two as a separate activity. The book is to be used in whatever way that makes it the most enjoyable and informative for the you, the reader.

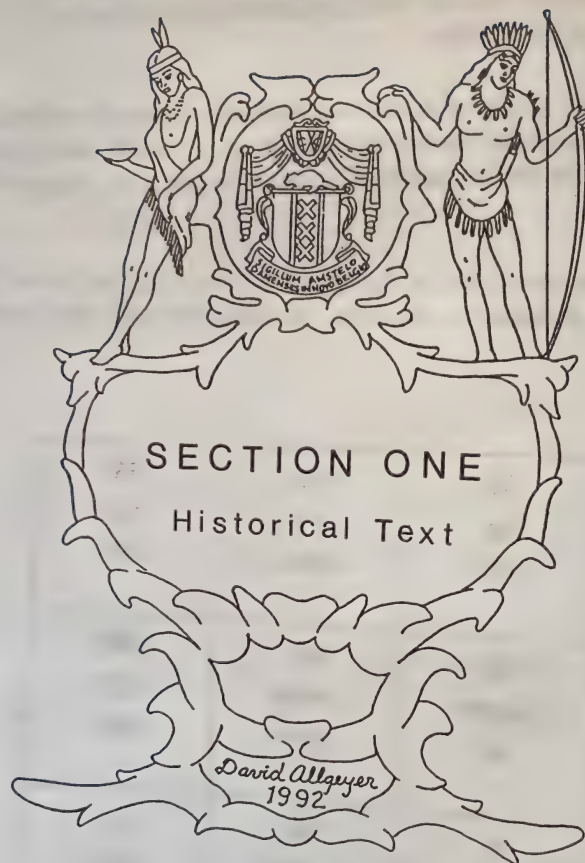
As best possible, the places of interest are numbered to coincide with the advancing years, starting with site one in the earliest period of Map I, to site 120 in the latest period of Map VII. In some instances the same site may remain for different structures which changed throughout the advancing years.

The numbers have been coded in the numerical listing pages and in the Outlines to make it easier to find the general locations on the maps. The two letters following the numbers are located as follows . . .

TL top left	TC top center	TR top right
ML middle left	MC middle center	MR middle right
BL bottom left	BC bottom center	BR bottom right

I.e., 1. Fort Amsterdam 1626-1789 (map 1 - MC, maps 2, 3, & 4 - BC)

By simply viewing the coded area (middle center of or bottom center) on the maps, one can easily narrow down the area in which the place of interest is located.



SECTION ONE

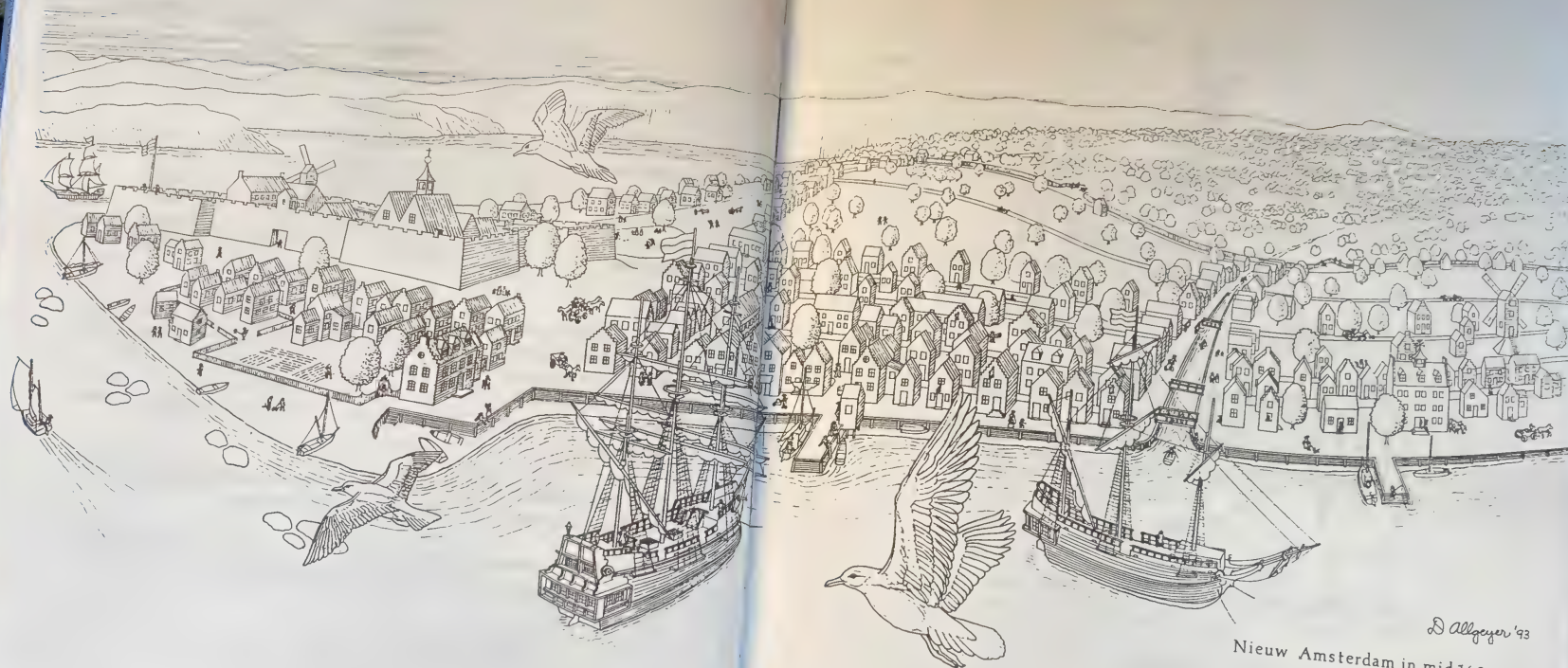
HISTORICAL TEXT and MAPS with PLACES OF INTEREST

Chapter One	Early & Mid 1600's	Maps I & II
Chapter Two	1685-1735	Map III
Chapter Three	1735-1785	Map IV
Chapter Four	1786-1836	Map V
Chapter Five	1837-1886	Map VI
Chapter Six	1887-1987	Map VII

The following Section contains the General Historical Text for each of the periods shown above, preceded by a Map showing the City as it was (usually around the end of the period), and a individual list naming those Places of Interest shown on the specific Map of the period and outlined in SECTION TWO. Margin notes also indicate numbers of Places of Interest for ease of reference . . . , i.e., - (see 4 and 12), indicating places of interest 4 and 12 on maps and outlined in Section Two.

Also illustrations relating to each chapter are indicated by figure numbers in each margin . . . , i.e., - (see fig. 3-2), indicating picture number 2 in the third chapter.

The page just preceding this section contains a guide to help in locating the general area of specific Places of Interest on the maps, and should be familiarized before trying to find them on the maps.



D. Allgeyer '93
Nieuw Amsterdam in mid 1600's
now Manhattan



CHAPTER ONE

Early Exploration and Settlement thru Mid 1600's

A Dutch business venture becomes a
permanent little settlement on the tip of a remote island in the New World

MAP I

A Plan of the Town of New Amsterdam
in the Province of New Netherland

MAP II

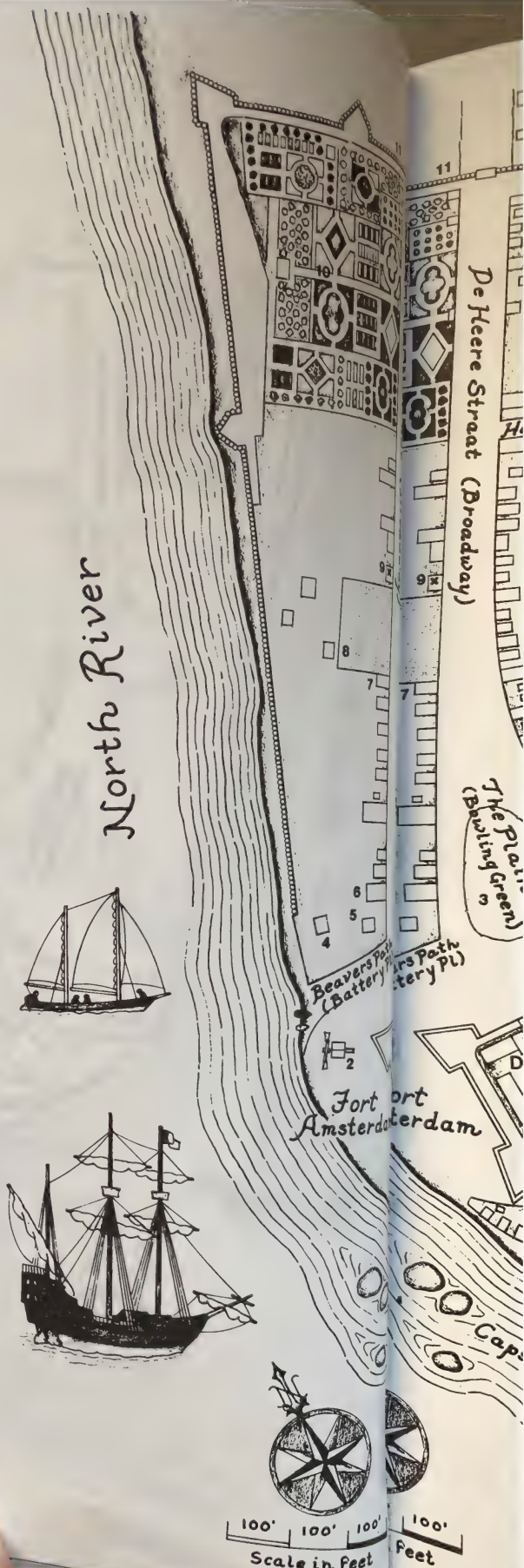
The Town and Environs of New Amsterdam
in the Province of New Netherland



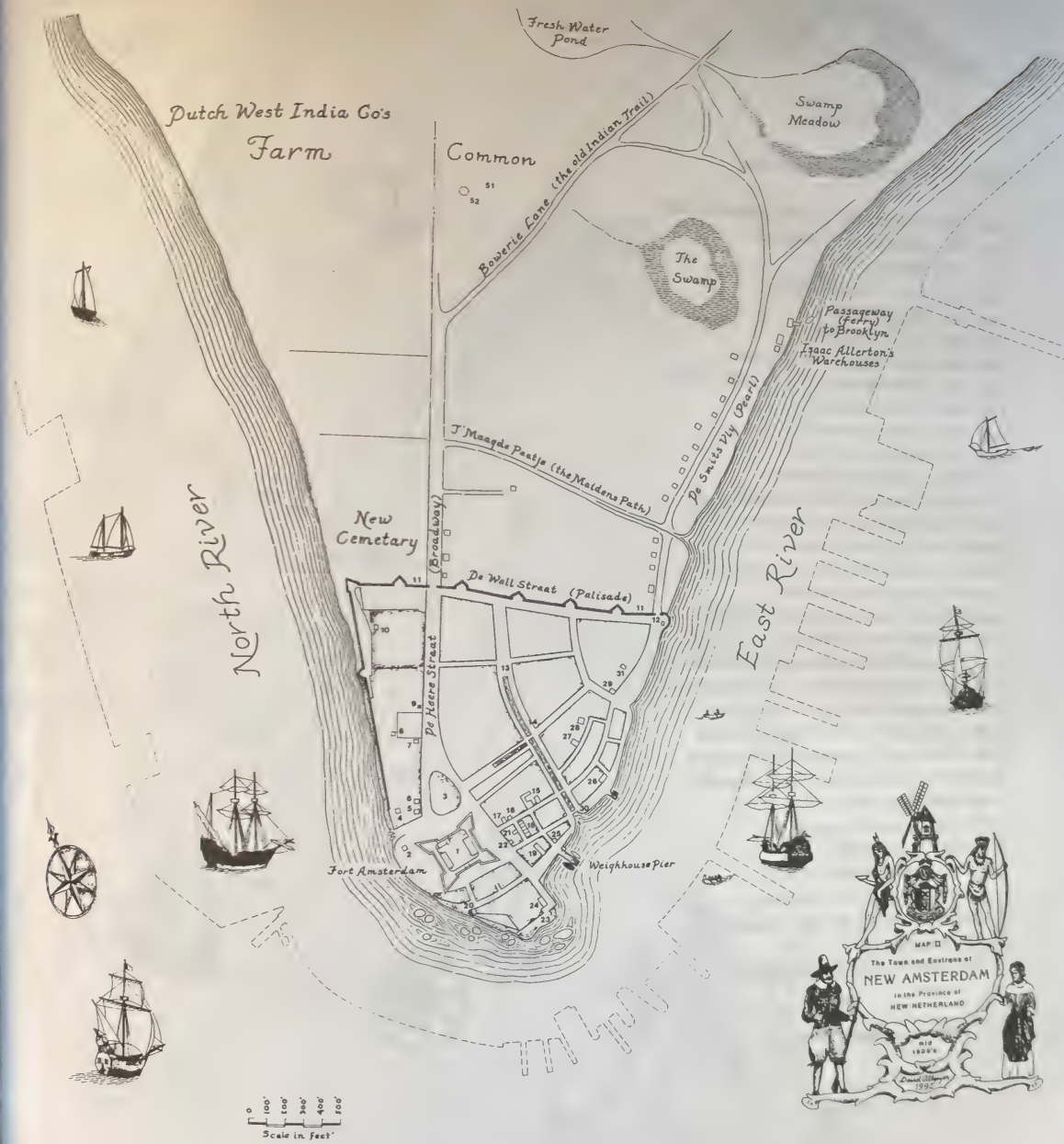
Map I.

Places of interest and locations

1. MC--Fort Manhattan - Fort Amsterdam
2. ML--The Grain Mill - Windmill
3. MC--The Bowling Green
4. ML--Lodowyc Pos's Tavern
5. ML--No. 1 Broadway
6. ML--No. 9 & 11 Broadway
7. ML--Jan Stevenson - Schoolmaster
8. ML--Old Churchyard & Dominie's Home
9. TL--Site of Adrian Block's Huts
10. TL--West India Company's Garden
11. TC--The Palisade of Fortified Wall
12. TR--The "Half Moon" Battery
13. TC--The Schaapen Weytie (pasture)
14. MC--The Heere Graft (common ditch)
15. MC--Van Cortlandt Home & Brewery
16. MC--A. Roelantsen - 1st Schoolmaster
17. MC--White Horse Tavern
18. MC--Dutch West India Co. Facilities
19. MC--Dutch West India Co. Facilities
20. MC--Dutch West India Co. Facilities
21. MC--Dominie Bogardus - 1st Clergyman
22. MC--Jacques Cortelyou - Surveyor
23. BC--Schreyer's (or Schreijer's) Hook
24. BC--Whitehall - Governor's Mansion
25. MC--First Dutch Reformed Church
26. MR--The Stadt Huys (City Hall)
27. MC--First Jewish Synagogue
28. MC--Old Bark Mill
29. TR--Burger Jorissen's Estate
30. MC--The Merchant's Exchange
31. TR--Lookerman's & Capt. Kidd's Home





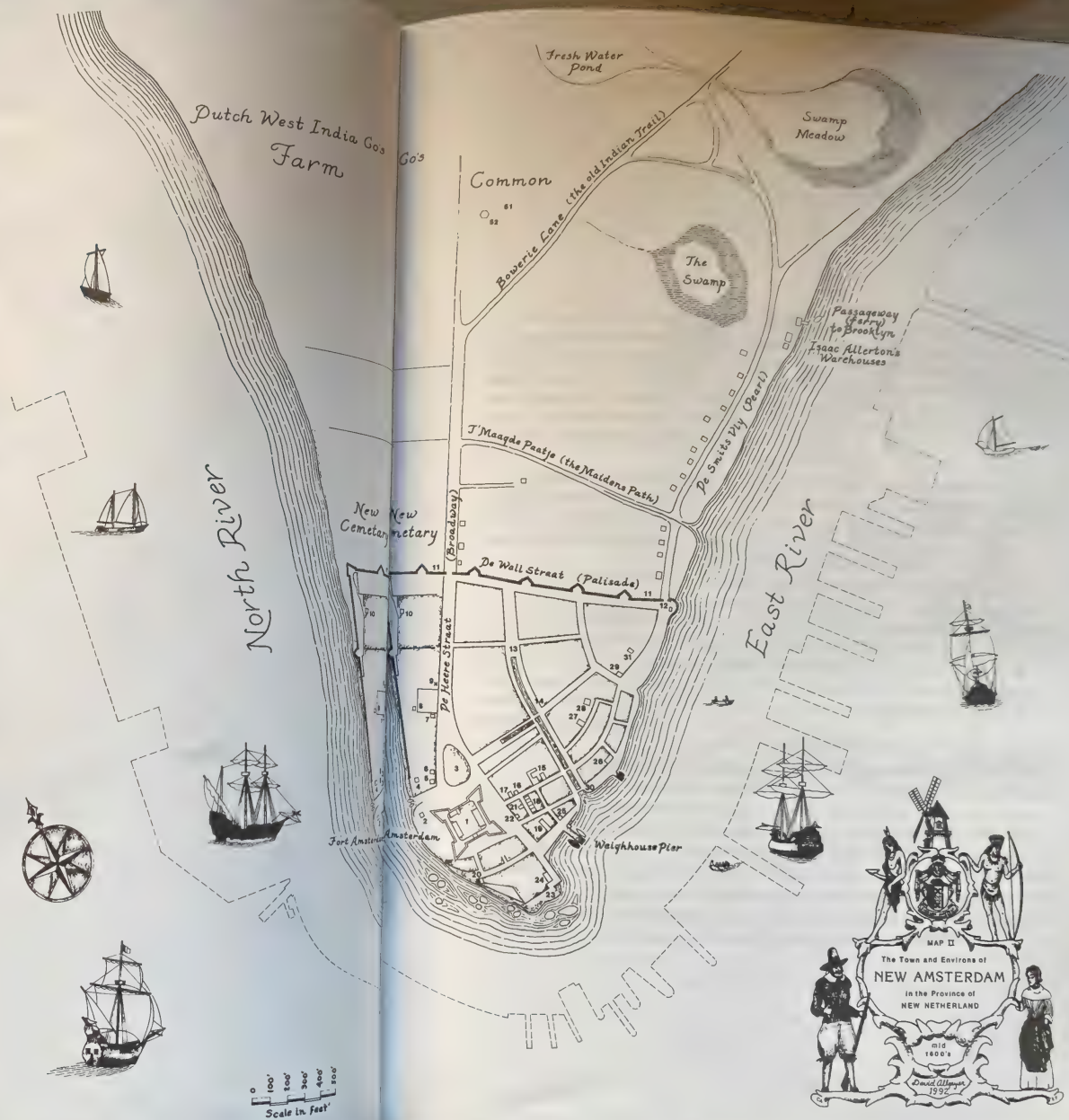




Map II.

Places of interest and locations

1. MC-Fort Manhattan - Fort Amsterdam
2. ML-The Grain Mill - Windmill
3. MC-The Bowling Green
4. ML-Lodowick Pos's Tavern
5. ML-No. 1 Broadway
6. ML-No. 9 & 11 Broadway
7. ML-San Stevenson - Schoolmaster
8. ML-Old Churchyard & Dominie's Home
9. TL-Site of Adrian Block's Huts
10. TL-West India Company's Garden
11. TC-The Palisade of Fortified Wall
12. TR-The "Half Moon" Battery
13. TC-The Schaapen Weytie (pasture)
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25. MC-First Dutch Reformed Church
26. MR-The Stadt Huys (City Hall)
27. MC-First Jewish Synagogue
28. MC-Old Bark Mill
29. TR-Burger Jorissen's Estate
30. MC-The Merchant's Exchange
31. TR-Lookerman's & Capt. Kidd's Home
51. TC-The Common
52. TC-Windmill on the Common



THE SAGA OF LOWER MANHATTAN



THE TIP OF THE ISLAND

CHAPTER ONE The 1600's

The small island lying between two tidal rivers extending northerly from a great bay along the northeastern seaboard of a primitive new world was, until the 16th century, virtually unknown beyond its shores. This was a pristine place of great natural beauty, and the home of several Indian tribes. The Indians who lived on the island would later become known as the Manhattae to the early explorers and fur traders who were destined to enter their world of rich natural resources . . . the island of Manhattan and the new continent beyond.

The dense woodlands and forest provided an ample supply of wood for fires and shelters, yet the long cold winters were particularly difficult. But the natural beauty of the area most certainly helped compensate for the hardships they endured, and the island provided all the natural assets needed for their daily subsistence.

The island's woodlands were thick with both hardwoods and conifers, and the terrain was mixed with high hills, rocky crags, grassy meadows and marshlands and fields well suited for raising crops and livestock. Natural springs and creeks provided an abundant supply of fresh water, much of which collected in ponds and small lakes. The shoreline varied from gently sloping, well suited for swimming or boating, to steep rocky bluffs offering magnificent views. One can hardly imagine any place on earth more beautiful and bountiful than was the little tip of the island before its discovery back in the 1500's.

In 1524, Giovanni da Verrazano a Florentine navigator discovered New York Bay, and apparently explored the lower Hudson River coastline of Manhattan Island. Almost a century passed before another explorer, Henry Hudson, was hired by the Dutch East India Company to find a new water route to the far east in 1609. After attempting to sail around northern Europe in vain, Hudson headed westward and eventually entered New York Harbor. Hudson sailed up the river which now bears his name, and his glowing reports of the friendly Indians with their plentiful supply of furs and the fertile and beautiful land on which they lived sparked the interest of the Dutch merchants who were always interested in generating new sources of wealth.

← Natural springs and creeks provided an abundant supply of fresh water, much of which collected in ponds and small lakes (see 50).

THE SAGA OF LOWER MANHATTAN

Captain Adriaen Block and his crew became the first Europeans to spend any length of time on the island (see 9). →

Meanwhile, the English were already establishing the first permanent settlement in America with the founding of Jamestown, Virginia in 1607, and the English were their strongest trading rival. So eager Dutch traders began sending ships to trade with the Indians in the New York Harbor region. One such ship was under the command of Captain Adriaen Block, who, along with another ship commanded by Captain Hendrick Christensen sailed to the island in November of 1613, aboard the Dutch East India Company's ships the "Tyger" and the "Fortune" respectively. Block's ship "Tyger" caught fire and was almost destroyed, causing Block and his crew to winter on the island, while the "Fortune" returned to Holland with the cargo. Thus, Block and his crew became the first Europeans to spend any length of time on the island.

The little settlement at "Fort Manhattan" was no longer considered a temporary venture, and the Dutch West India Co. was given governing powers (see 1). →

In 1614 the governing council of the Netherlands granted a 4-year charter to the Dutch East India Co., providing them with a monopoly of the profitable trading in the region of the New World they claimed as "Nieuw Nederlandt." This would provide them a relatively short period of commitment during which the potential of that western trading post could be evaluated. When the charter expired in Jan. 1618, the Dutch government made a decision that would come to have a profound effect on the future course of history of Manhattan Island. They decided that their western trading post should no longer be regarded as of a temporary nature, as had been the case with the crude little post of the past four years they called "Fort Manhattan," and not to renew their grant to the East India Company. Aware of the growing English presence in the New World and the landing of the pilgrims on the beach at Cape Cod to begin the establishment of the New England colonies to the north in 1620, they undertook a far bolder commitment to strengthen their foothold in the region. In 1621 they chartered a new western counterpart to the East India Co. which became the Dutch West India Company, also headquartered in Amsterdam. It was intended as a powerful trading corporation throughout the western hemisphere, with broad powers to include the exercise of local government functions and exclusive rights of trade in the region.

Peter Minuit was best remembered for his audacious deal with the Indian chiefs, in which he bought the entire island of Manhattan for 60 guildens (about \$24) and a few trinkets (see fig. 1-1). →

The trading post branch on the island of Manhattan became known as "New Amsterdam, in the province of New Netherland," and its charter now provided a 24-year monopoly of all trading along the Atlantic coastline of the Americas (an exclusivity the English were sure to find somewhat disagreeable). Nevertheless, in 1624 the company's directors drew up a provisional order for the administration of a colony to be established in "the recently designated province of New Netherland," again conveniently ignoring the English claim of territorial rights for the entire length of the Atlantic seaboard. . . From the New England settlements in the north, to those in Virginia and the Carolinas in the south.

The Dutch charter provided for the company control of the new settlement and its trading activities to be administered under the governorship of a Director General, the first of which was Peter Minuit. Governor Minuit was best remembered for his audacious deal with the Algonquin Indian chiefs, in which he bought the entire island of Manhattan for 60 guildens (about \$24) and a few trinkets. He arrived on the island in 1625, and along with a handful of company men and a half dozen Dutch families

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became the island's first permanent white inhabitants. They proceeded to erect buildings of a structure similar to those in their native Holland on the lower tip of the island, and a small fort to protect them from the occasional savagery of the native Indians. Minuit named the fort "Fort Amsterdam," and its very presence became an inducement to the needed colonists being sought by the West India Co. to venture to this new and unspoiled wilderness so far from the comfort and safety of their homeland. Within a few years the little settlement of New Amsterdam was clearly on its way to becoming the nucleus of a colonial seat of government, and marked the beginning of the present City of New York.

The principal reason for the colonization was to expand and protect the trading interest of the Dutch West India Co. in the area, and rather arbitrary and restrictive rules were imposed since the company had been empowered by the Dutch government to govern pretty much as they saw fit. Governor Minuit was recalled to Amsterdam in 1631 for granting privileges at the expense of the company. His replacement was Wouter Van Twiller, a totally unqualified and arrogant man who was chosen from his job as a desk clerk in the office of the Dutch West India Co. in 1633. He built a few forts along the Connecticut and Delaware rivers, but proved to be no match for the towns' leaders who soon became hostile to his corrupt and quarrelsome ways. Nevertheless, he managed to survive for about five years before being recalled in 1638.

The third Governor was the fiery tempered Willem Kieft who arrived on the island in 1638, at a time when the company was beginning to relinquish its tight monopoly on trading and other business activities and permitted the townspeople to begin engaging in private enterprises. Also, they were improving the system of granting land, making it more favorable for the middle class to become owners of small tracts of their own. So, while their choice of appointed Governors may have been poor, at least the company was beginning to do some things right. As for Kieft, he was failing miserably, especially in his handling of affairs with the Indians of the lower Hudson Valley, and he fell into conflict with almost everyone . . . including the very influential spiritual head of the Dutch Reformed Church who arrived at the island five years earlier, Dominie Evardus Bogardus.

Because of Kieft's mismanagement of Indian affairs and the activities of some irresponsible traders, the Indians began a series of skirmishes in 1641, which continued for about four years. Kieft ordered many of the Algonquins slaughtered for their attacks on the Dutch settlements, further provoking the hostilities in the region. The settlers were at times required to disrupt their daily activities and seek protection within the still rather crude fort. Kieft's poor handling of the situation was becoming a matter of growing concern, and the citizens were becoming more vocal about their dissatisfaction. While the settlers had no real voice in the government, Kieft was eventually forced to seek the counsel of a group of leading citizens who were chosen by the townspeople in 1642. But the resentful Kieft refused to accept the reforms recommended by the group. Meanwhile, the most vocal of all Kieft's dissenters, the

✦ They erected buildings similar to those in their native Holland. (see fig. 1-3)

✦ Peter Minuit named the fort "Fort Amsterdam." (see 1)

✦ Dominie Evardus Bogardus, the very influential spiritual head of the Dutch Reformed Church arrives (see 25).

✦ Dominie Bogardus delivers tirade from the pulpit against the inept Governor Kieft (see 25).

THE SAGA OF LOWER MANHATTAN

Dominie Bogardus, stepped-up his attacks on Kieft's ineptness. . . particularly from the pulpit where he had a captive audience. Kieft fired back, accusing Bogardus of indifference to government authority, public vulgarity. . . and even being intoxicated while delivering his sermons.



fig 1-1 The first Dutch Director General Peter Minuit strikes a bargain with the Indians for the purchase of Manhattan Island for \$24 and a few trinkets.

Eventually Kieft was relieved of his office and recalled to Holland, but not before having successfully negotiated for having the Dominie also recalled to appear before an ecclesiastical tribunal in Amsterdam. Ironically, they sailed for Holland together on Aug. 17, 1647 aboard the ill-fated ship "Princess," which sunk off the coast of England. Kieft and Bogardus were both drowned.

No account of the early history of the tip of the island would be complete without some insight as to the people themselves . . . what were these first Dutch settlers really like? Well, probably more tolerant than the British, less refined and ceremonious than the French and Spanish, and probably far less disciplined than any of them. They were typically a free spirited, ambitious and hard working lot, accustomed to doing things for themselves. . . somewhat different from their European counterparts who were at the same time colonizing around them. They were a

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tolerant bunch in terms of religion, politics and social conduct. . . to a point. But they also possessed rather low flash points and violent tempers, and were no strangers to confrontations and downright physical encounters when needed to get one's point across. They came from all ranks of life, farmers, merchants, millers, bakers, brewers, blacksmiths, stone masons, carpenters, schoolmasters, tavern and Innkeepers, doctors, lawyers, engineers, soldiers and sailors, ship builders, and of course trappers and traders. . . all playing a crucial role in the growth and well being of the little colony.

Because they were a more tolerant and open society, they attracted a variety of nationalities and religious sects, not only from Europe, but from neighboring colonies as well, especially New England. In the mid 1600's over a dozen different nationalities were represented, yet the majority remained Dutch until later in the century. And the old Dutch traditions and customs prevailed. They celebrated five festivals throughout the year. . . Kerstyd (Christmas), Nieuw Jarr (New Year), Pass (the Passover), Pinxter (Whitsuntide, or the week following Pentecost), and San Claas (Saint Nicholas or Kris Kinkle Day).

Dances and festivals of all sorts were frequently held, as the Dutch were a very congenial group who enjoyed socializing with their relatives, friends and neighbors. One of the favorite foods for such occasions was sausage and sauerkraut, with a big stein of beer of course. Another favorite drink was a cup of piping hot Chocolate, especially on a cold winter day. And just as they did in the old country, they loved to sit out on the front "stoopes" in the cool of the evening, puffing away on their long stem pipes, and exchanging pleasant conversation with their friends and neighbors, or catching up on the local events. They missed their native homeland, but few places in the entire world could offer more in terms of it's natural beauty and assets than the little tip of the island they now called home. Even the natural creek flowing southeasterly out of the "Schaapen Weytie" (sheep pasture) to an inlet on the shore of the east river, which the early Dutch called the "Heere Graft" (common ditch), was perfect for converting to a canal like those in their native homeland.

The fourth and last Director General to be appointed by the Dutch West India Co. was Peter Stuyvesant, who arrived on the island in 1647. Stuyvesant was the first governor to really put the welfare of the public ahead of personal or company interest, and did much to enhance the cause of civil rights and self government for the settlers. Unfortunately he lacked one important trait, one which perhaps had been former Governor Kieft's only virtue. . . religious tolerance. Stuyvesant was a zealous Calvinist, and did little to enhance the opportunities for the growth of other religions in the colony. . . especially the Quakers. However, in 1653 he agreed to the establishment of a board of nine men, which became the first permanent board of officials made up of local citizens in the colony. While he rejected most of their recommendations, it opened the door for demands for more self-government and encouraged the settlers to take a more active interest in their own destinies.

← A natural creek flowed southeasterly out of the "Schaapen Weytie" (sheep pasture - see 13) to the shore of the east river, which the early Dutch called "Heere Graft" (Common Ditch - see 14)(see also Fig. 1-2)

← They loved to sit out on the front "stoopes" in the evening, or enjoy a liesurley stroll along the "Heere Graft" (see Fig. 1-2)

← Stuyvesant was a zealous Calvinist, and did little to enhance the opportunities for the growth of other religions in the colony... especially the Quakers (see 44).

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Fig. 1-2 A young Dutch couple enjoying a casual stroll along the canal (now Broad Street) in old New Amsterdam. →



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While the English colonies had already been offering a more favorable form of self-government prior to Stuyvesant's arrival, they showed little by way of condoning any form of religious tolerance as had been the case with the Dutch, who pretty well felt that a man was entitled to believe as he wished in matters of faith. And so the little town had grown to about 1,000 inhabitants by about 1650, and was becoming further entrenched as the seat of government in the colony.



fig 1-3 Looking towards the East River along the "Heere Graet" canal (now Broad Street) at the Brugh Straat bridge (now Bridge Street).

In addition to establishing the first form of municipal government, Stuyvesant ordered a fortified wall built in 1653 because of his growing concern for the increasing hostility of their major trading rivals the British, who were beginning to move into the Connecticut Valley, Long Island and the land along the Sound. The fortified wall stretched from shore to shore across the island along the line of what is now Wall St., isolating the southern tip from the rest of the island, except for a large gate at "De Heere Straat" (Broadway), and another at the eastern end near the shore of the East River. Most of the growing population lived within the confines of the wall in the mid 1600's, but a few adventurous souls moved beyond the protection it supposedly afforded from Indians and wild animals. . . as well as from any hostilities which might move down into the area from the English colonies to the north. A triangular plot of ground just northeast of the end of Broadway was used for grazing livestock, and became known as "The Common," but for many years the animals were returned at sunset to the owners living inside the wall. And so, while the fortified wall may or may not have been of much useful purpose, it certainly had the effect of restraining the town's natural growth to the north.

← The fortified wall stretched from shore to shore across the island along the line of what is now Wall St., (see 11) isolating the southern tip from the rest of the island, except for a large gate at "De Heere Straat" (Broadway), and another at the eastern end near the shore of the East River.

← A triangular plot of ground just northeast of the end of Broadway was used for grazing livestock, and became known as "The Common" (see 51), but for many years the animals were returned at sunset to the owners living inside the wall.

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fig. 1-4 The large building with the bell tower at Coenties Slip on "The Strand" (Pearl Street) was originally built as the "Stadt Herbergh" (City Tavern) in 1642, but became the town's first "Stadt Huys" (City Hall) when it was granted its first municipal charter in 1653 (see 26).

By the year 1656, there were about 150 houses clustered together on the tip of the island, and the streets had been pretty well staked out. By 1660, only four years later, the number of houses and buildings had grown to about 300, and the little settlement looked pretty much like any comparable little town back in the Netherlands. Just as the early Dutch settlers retained their staunch spiritual beliefs and customs, so also did they retain their fondness for staunch spirits of a different nature . . . a stein of beer and a measure of rum. Of the approximately 300 houses and buildings shown on map I there were at least 18 taverns, four breweries and a couple distilleries. And since some of the taverns were grouped with two or three being almost next door to each other, it can be assumed that they were all doing a rather lively business.

There were only two docks at which larger ships could be anchored, both on the shore of the East River. The large one just south of the entrance to the Heere Gracht (canal) was called the "Weighhouse Pier" because of the little house where goods being loaded on and off ships could be weighed. The southeastern area of town was the more densely populated because of the bustling waterfront activities, a growth pattern which would continue even as the growth began to the north, beyond the confines of the fortified wall. A short distance north of the wall was a brook which ran from near

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Broadway in an easterly direction downhill to an outlet at the shore of the East River (see map II). It became known as the "Maagde Paetge" (maidens path), after the early Dutch maidens who walked its banks with clothing which was washed in its waters. The present day street which still follows its path retains the name "Maiden Lane." Also, beyond the wall on the west side of Broadway was the old Dutch West India Company's farm, just above the cemetery. Along with the company's garden and orchard just inside the wall west of Broadway it provided much of the town's fresh fruit and vegetable supply, supplementing that which was grown in privately owned gardens and orchards.

Because of the Dutch interference with the expansion of English trade and colonization in the area, on March 22, 1664, Charles II of England granted to his brother James, Duke of York and Albany, all the land from the west side of the Connecticut River to the east side of Delaware Bay, including Maine, Martha's Vineyard, Long Island, and other islands. . . which of course included Manhattan Island. . . conveniently ignoring the fact that it was already a thriving Dutch colony. England then sent a fleet to capture New Netherland, commanded by Col. Richard Nicolls. Four English frigates entered the harbor in late August 1664, and Gov. Stuyvesant, never one to back a way from a good fight, tried frantically to rally the townspeople to action. But the people felt that as most were employees of the Dutch West India Co., they were being asked mainly to defend the company's property, and had little if any feelings of a nationalism for their new land. . . certainly not enough to die for. On Sept. 8, 1664, Stuyvesant was forced to surrender without a shot having been fired, and was replaced by Nicolls as Governor.

Governor Nicolls renamed the colony "New York," in honor of the Duke of York, in whose name the land was now claimed. Because of the lack of any spirit of real nationalism on the part of the Dutch, the transition from Dutch to English rule went relatively smoothly. However, the Duke of York assumed sole power to make laws, regulate trade, grant land, and fix taxes. But in 1666 Gov. Nicolls, in keeping within the English tradition of promoting a rather liberal degree of self-government for their colonies, granted to freeholders a voice in the town's government through the election of a board of overseers and a constable, and a guarantee of freedom of religion and trial by jury. In 1668 Colonel Francis Lovelace replaced Nicolls as governor, but the conciliatory policies continued.

The trade wars resulting from the fierce commercial rivalry between the Dutch and the English throughout the world continued another six years. In August 1673, the Dutch regained control of New York when a Dutch fleet sailed into the harbor and surprised the British. But the following year, in 1674, the treaty of Westminster ended the war, and the city was again turned over to the English. Sir Edmund Andros became the new governor, and the English form of government was returned to the city. During all of the hostilities between the Dutch and the English, during which the possession of the city changed hands several times, not one shot was ever fired at the fortified wall which spanned the island. Nor for that matter, was the great fort on the

← The Dutch West India Company's farm, garden and orchard (see 10) just inside the wall west of Broadway provided much of the town's fresh fruit and vegetable supply, supplementing that which was grown in privately owned gardens and orchards.

← The fortified wall was never put to use (see 11). (Also see fig. 2-2)

← Nor for that matter, was the great fort on the tip of the island ever of any real value in its defense (see 1)

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tip of the island ever of any real value in its defense. Also, it is interesting to note that each change of government seemed to have little effect on the lives of the townspeople, and if anything improved their right to self-government.

The town's population had reached about fifteen hundred souls when the British first took control in 1664, but it was not until the latter part of the century that the town then known as the City of New York really began to flourish. It was already becoming a haven for immigrants, mostly from Europe, who were seeking religious tolerance and a better life. No longer simply a town of "Company People," it was becoming an increasingly important commercial and agricultural center with bustling maritime activities. A real stimulus to growth and expansion came in 1678 with the passage of the Bolting Act. In accordance with the Act, the city was granted a monopoly on the bolting (sieving) of flour, and the packing of flour and biscuit for export. No person or mill outside the city was permitted to grind flour for market or pack breadstuffs in any form for public sale. Stimulated by such extraordinary privileges, the city embarked on a period of outstanding growth and prosperity. Quite properly does the heraldic arms of the Seal of the City of New York adopted in 1682, display the beaver as being emblematic of the city's commercial beginning in trapping and trading, and the sails of a windmill and 2 flour barrels representing its firm foundation of domestic and foreign commerce. The act was passed in 1678, at which time there were about 385 houses in the city, and the total number of beef slaughtered was 400 head. By the time the one-sided discriminatory act was repealed by pressures from outside the city in 1694, the number of houses had almost tripled to about 1,000, and the number of cattle slaughtered was increased tenfold to about four thousand head. . . largely for export.

Thus the Bolting Act had accomplished far more than its promoters had ever anticipated. . . it laid the foundation for the city's preeminent role in foreign commerce and insured its continued growth and prosperity. No longer a quaint little community on the tip of a pristine island, with giant windmills, quiet canals, and an abundance of friendly Inns and taverns. . . the port of New York had already become a thriving little city as it neared the end of the 17th. Century.

Among the ever present hardships and dangers which were endured by the early colonists was that of the destructive fires which occurred on a regular basis. It is hard to imagine in this day of fireproof materials, rigid fire codes, and extensive protection and prevention means available to us, how different it was back then. There was little if any in the way of building codes, and everyone was left to his own best judgement as to the safety of houses and buildings being constructed. All heating during the winter months was provided by wood burning fireplaces and stoves. All lighting at night was provided by oil burning lamps, and cooking was done on wood burning stoves year-round. As was the custom in the old country, many of the houses and buildings were constructed one against another. . . and none of which had any form of inside running water available. All in all, the conditions made it difficult to prevent

Quite properly does the heraldic arms of the Seal of the City of New York (see emblems between Indian figures - maps III thru VII) adopted in 1682, display the beaver as being emblematic of the city's commercial beginning in trapping and trading, and the sails of a windmill and 2 flour barrels representing its firm foundation of domestic and foreign commerce. →

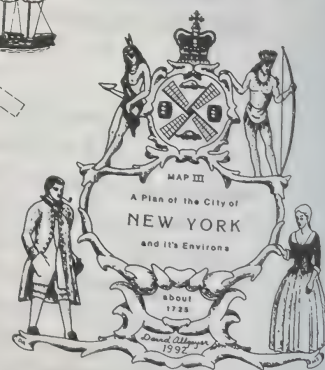
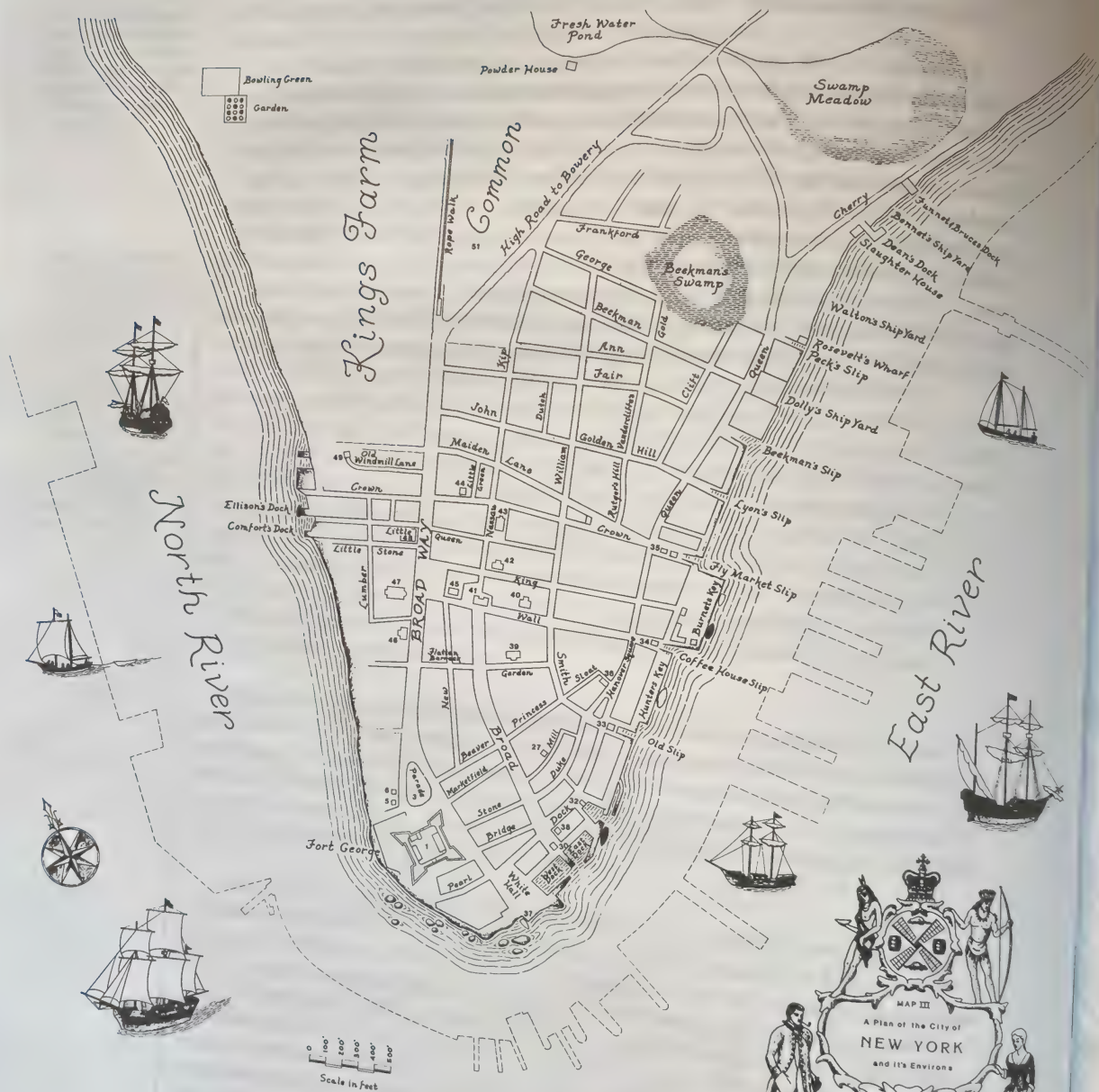
THE TIP OF THE ISLAND

fires as well as control them once they were started, and an uncontrolled fire could reap havoc on the community.

Even back in 1648, governor Peter Stuyvesant appointed four "firewardens," whose duties included making chimney inspections, and assessing fines and penalties to those whose chimneys were not properly swept. The money which they collected was used to buy fire fighting equipment, such as buckets, ropes, hooks and ladders. Martin Cregier was one of the original four wardens, the little group which laid the foundation of New York's and the nation's Volunteer Fire Departments. Later, an organization of eight men was formed and became known as the "Rattle Watch." Provided with some 250 buckets and many hooks and ladders, they patrolled the streets of the old city from nine in the evening until dawn. . . ever on the alert for any signs of a fire, while the townspeople slept more peacefully. Who could have guessed that by 1865 the little group would have grown to about 4,000 volunteer fireman.

◆Martin Cregier (see 6) was one of the original 4 wardens, the little group which laid the foundation of New York's and the nation's Volunteer Fire Departments.

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A vertical strip of a map of New York City and its environs. The top part shows a coastline with a ship sailing on the water. Below the ship, the text "East River" is written vertically. At the bottom, there is a coat of arms featuring a shield with a cross and four quadrants, topped with a crown. To the right of the shield is a figure holding a bow and arrow. Below the coat of arms, the text "City of NEW YORK" is visible, along with "and its Environs". At the very bottom, there is a small map of the city with the text "about 1728" and "Dutch Allegory 1997".

A small rebellion produces some gains in provincial self-government under English rule. The slave trade and piracy contribute to the city's growth and prosperity.

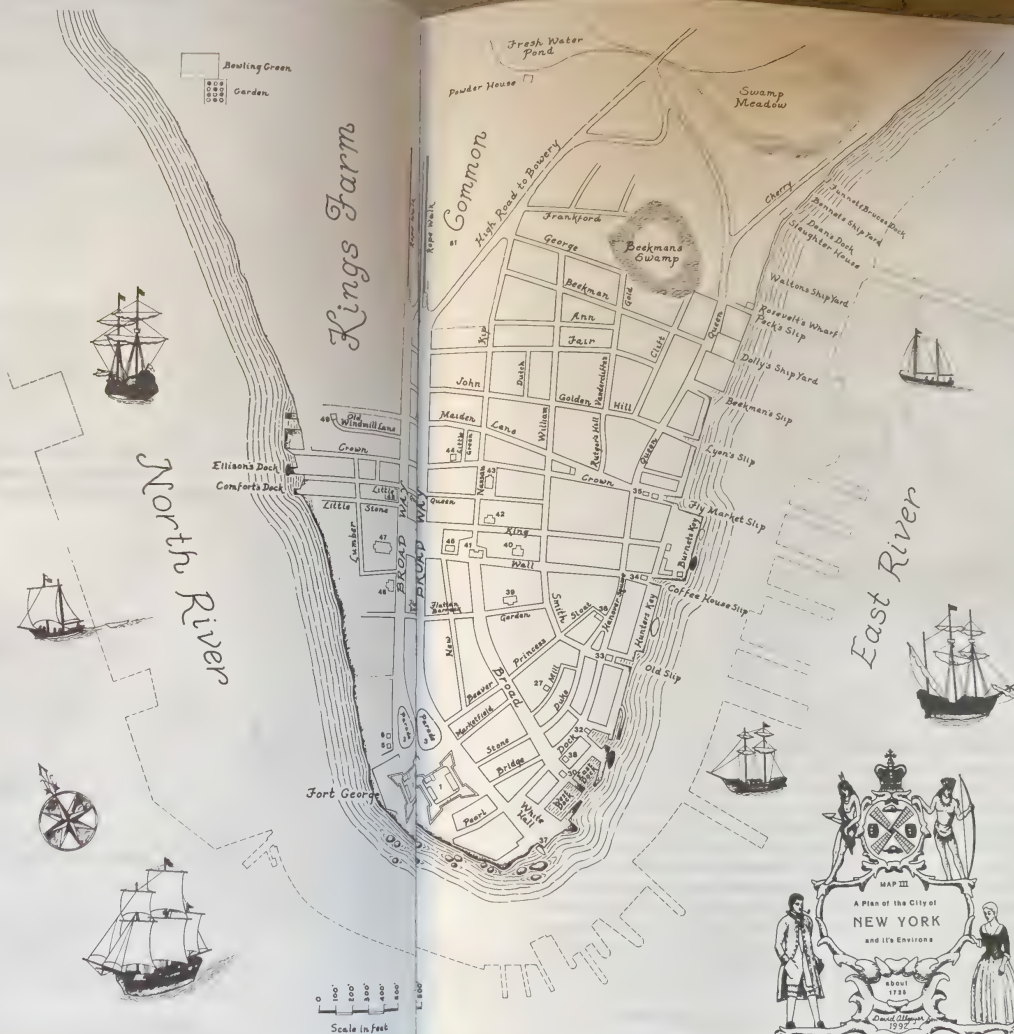
A Plan of the City of New York and its Environs



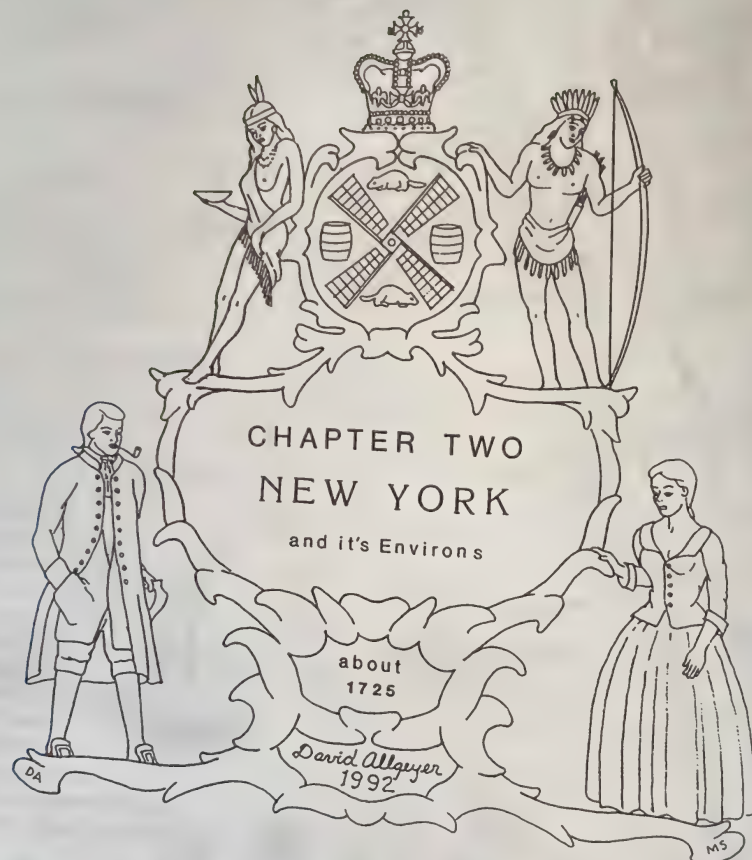
Map III.

Places of interest and locations

1. BC-Fort George
3. BC-The Bowling Green
5. BC-No. 1 Broadway
6. MC-No. 9 & 11 Broadway
27. MC-First Jewish Synagogue
30. BC-The Merchant's Exchange
32. BC-Fish Market at Coenties Slip
33. MC-Old Slip Market
34. MC-Meat Market & Slave Market
Coffee House Slip
Merchant's Coffee House
35. MC-The Fly Market
36. MC-William Bradford - First Printer
37. BC-Staten Island Ferry Dock
38. BC-Fraunces Tavern
39. MC-Dutch Reformed Church & School
40. MC-Bayard's Sugar House
41. MC-City Hall - then Federal Hall
42. MC-French Huguenot Church
43. MC-New Dutch Reformed Church
44. MC-Quaker Meeting House & Graveyard
45. MC-First Presbyterian Church
46. MC-Lutheran Church
47. MC-Trinity Church
48. MC-De Lancey Mansion
City Arms & Burns Tavern
51. TC-The Common - then City Hall Park



THE SAGA OF LOWER MANHATTAN



THE TIP OF THE ISLAND

CHAPTER TWO About 1685 to 1735

By the end of the 1600's New York was already well on its way to becoming a melting pot for a diverse mixture of people of many faiths and nationalities. There were aristocrats and slaves, merchants and farmers, doctors, lawyers, tradesmen and soldiers, and of course numerous sailors, dock hands, shipbuilders, etc., in what was rapidly becoming a self-sufficient city, no longer requiring the support or tolerant of the restraints of a foreign government . . . be it English or Dutch. There were dissenters from England, French Calvinists, Barbadians, Scotch Covenanters, Dutch Reformists, Irish Catholics, Quakers, Jews and Baptists. A polyglot society, the many languages spoken throughout the city made it difficult to communicate, much less work together. Yet many were lonely and felt somewhat insecure in this strange new world, and together managed to shape a whole new and independent society whose daily challenges and hardships gave them a common bond and unity of purpose unlike anything they had experienced in the past.

Even though they ruled the colony, the English represented a minority of its total citizens. And so, while the English rulers during this period were competent and did much to foster the welfare of the city, many New Yorkers were becoming increasingly resentful of being governed by a foreign power whose people were in the minority on the island. Also, they considered the English to be somewhat insensitive to their local needs. Thus, even during this energetic and highly formative period of rather significant growth and progress, some were already sowing the seeds of discontent.

Aware of the situation in the colonies, in 1683 the Duke of York sent a new and very capable governor, Thomas Dongan, with instructions to call a general provincial assembly for which the colonists had been petitioning. The assembly met in Oct. 1683, and consisted of Dongan, 10 councilors and 17 representatives elected by the free citizenry. In Dec. 1683, the new assembly divided the city into six wards, each to have an alderman and an assistant, who together with the mayor and the city recorder would comprise the new 14 man council. All rights and privileges were confirmed, and the city was granted eminent domain. . . it could now acquire and grant land, and was empowered to regulate franchises and other rights. They could also elect constables and assessors to maintain civil obedience and provide for sources of income for the city. They were also given proprietorship of the city hall, market houses, bridges, wharves, docks, cemeteries, ferries, unoccupied lands, and all waters

◆ The city was well on its way to becoming a melting pot for people of many faiths and nationalities.

◆ Even though they ruled the colony, the English represented a minority of its total citizens.

◆ Governor Dongan grants the city new governing powers including the right to approve or reject taxes (see 26). (See also fig. 1-4).

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within the city. Most important of all was the power to approve or reject all taxes. All these grants were legally confirmed by Dongan's grant of a municipal charter in April 1686. . . the first such grant of major concessions under English rule.

In the meantime, back in England in 1685 the Duke of York became the crowned King of England, James the II. As king he became more concerned with keeping a tighter grip on England's colonies throughout the world, especially in America, and he reneged on his acquiescence to Dongan's charter, withdrew his approval, and instructed the governor to reassume his full legislative powers. Fortunately, in 1689, James the II was faced with a rebellion in England, abdicated, and fled to France. News of his defection led the citizens of Boston to jail Edmund Andros, who had been James the II's appointed governor of New York, New Jersey and the New England colonies at that time. Six weeks later, upon hearing of the jailing of Andros in Boston, Jacob Leisler, a prosperous New York political agitator, led a revolt against Lt. Gov. Francis Nicholson who was Andros deputy in New York.

Under Leisler's rebellious leadership, the townspeople seized the fort, then known as Fort James, and Lt. Gov. Nicholson fled to England. Seizing the opportunity and supported by the local citizenry, Leisler quickly appointed himself Commander in Chief of the revolutionary government, so as to "take care for preserving the peace and administering the laws of his majesty's province of New York" in the absence of any local authority appointed by the Crown. He then assumed the title of Lieutenant Governor, appointed a council and took charge of governing the entire province. Leisler then went on to summon the first intercolonial congress in America, which met in New York in May 1690 with an agenda for planning a concerted action against the French and Indians who had been agitating the colonists. While he proclaimed loyalty to William and Mary, who had succeeded James II to the throne of England, Leisler refused to recognize the authority of Major Ingoldsby, whom the Crown had sent to govern in Jan. 1691, and stubbornly retained possession of the fort. But later in March, when the Crown sent Col. Henry Sloughter to take the city by whatever force deemed necessary and become the new governor of the province, Leisler surrendered the fort and was taken into custody. Leisler's foes persuaded Sloughter that he was a dangerous traitor, and Leisler and his son-in-law were hanged from a tree near the common.

"Leisler's Rebellion," as it became historically known as, helped preserve New York's separate existence and resulted in a permanent bicameral legislature. His assembly was made a permanent elected unit, and the old council became the upper house. The British exonerated Leisler in 1695, and he became a martyr in America's quest for self government.

The Dongan Charter was amended by Queen Anne in 1708, and in 1730 it was further enlarged into what became known as the Montgomerie Charter by George II. The charter, which was confirmed by the General Assembly of the province in 1732,

Jacob Leisler lead the town's people in a revolt against Gov. Andros' deputy in New York. →

Leisler's foes persuaded Sloughter that he was a dangerous traitor, and Leisler and his son-in-law were hanged from a tree near the common. →

New York becomes a free city under Montgomerie Charter of 1732. →

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made New York a free city, and to this day provides the basis of our civil rights. The rise of the assembly and provincial self-government were the most important developments in both the city and the colonies thru the early 1700's. Still, the seeds of discontent had been sown, and in spite of the progress that had been made some were already thinking of a time when the colonies might no longer be under the rule of a foreign government, but become a new and independent nation of free men.

By the beginning of the 1700's, the population of the city had grown to about 5,000 souls. The Dutch and English were about equal in numbers, and the rest were from many countries including the French, Swedes and Jews and about 800 Negro slaves. The city was prospering, and becoming less and less of a farming and agricultural community and increasingly commercialized. The British had just torn down the fortified wall which for too many years had restricted the growth to the north, and vast new areas north of what was then the town limits were opening up for development. For most, life in the city was not easy, but there were plenty of opportunities for those who were willing to work hard and long hours to do reasonably well.

Indentured servitude and slavery had been practiced in Europe and the old world for centuries, and the hideous practice lost no time in finding its way to the New World. The Dutch are credited with having brought the first cargo of slaves to the North American shores from their possessions on the Guinea coast to the plantations of Virginia. An important part of the business activities of the Dutch West India Co. was providing African slaves for the American colonies. It was a highly profitable business, eagerly engaged in and attended by the merchants and private citizens of New York and every major city in the colonies. It was of course considered a completely respectable business, and as one historian of the period put it "a species of maritime adventure engaged in by several of our most respectable merchants." In addition to the Negro slaves, there were many Indian slaves held in the city and throughout the colony. It became a common practice to "hire out" one's slaves as another source of income to the owners. So common had the practice become in the city and throughout the colonies, that in Nov. 1711 for convenience to slave owners a law was passed that "all Negro and Indian slaves that are let out for hire within the city do take up their standing in order to be hired at the market-house (Slave Market) at the Wall St. Slip."

Not only did the slave trade contribute to the city's preeminence as a maritime port, piracy was also becoming a very lucrative and thriving enterprise as well. While it never really enjoyed the popular acceptance as did the slave trade, neither was it publicly condemned. . . as it also brought considerable wealth and a wide variety of goods (confiscated of course) to the city. Some of the great fortunes that were made in the city had the foundations of that enterprise. Under the generously liberal rule of Governor Fletcher (1692-98), any pirate or New York merchant taking a flyer in piracy was entirely secure in his business. . . provided he was willing to pay a fair

← The British had just torn down the fortified wall which for too many years had restricted the growth to the north (see 11), and vast new areas north of what was then the town limits were opening up for development.

← It became a common practice to "hire out" one's slaves as another source of income to the owners. So common had the practice become in the city and throughout the colonies, that in Nov. 1711 for convenience to slave owners a law was passed that "all Negro and Indian slaves that are let out for hire within the city do take up their standing in order to be hired at the market-house (Slave Market) at the Wall St. Slip" (see 34).

← Not only did the slave trade contribute to the city's preeminence as a maritime port, piracy was also becoming a very lucrative and thriving enterprise as well (see fig. 2-1).

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Fig. 2-1 Checking out the ships cargo with the first mate in the early 1700's when the slave trade and piracy were not uncommon. →



percentage of its profits to that high functionary (the governing power). This arrangement may have been the start of today's common practice of businesses and special interest groups paying off politicians for special considerations and favors.

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Because of the huge losses which were often incurred by ships and cargos being lost to pirates, the practice of "privateering" became a legitimized method of reclaiming stolen property, and hopefully laying some unscrupulous pirates to their eternal rest. Privateers were those ships and crews whose business it was to seek out and pursue pirate vessels, engage them, and hopefully capture their ships and/or cargos. Privateers were sponsored by governments or private companies who became legal owners of whatever spoils were taken in the venture, a percentage of which was of course split with the officers and crew of the Privateering vessel.

And so, in the seaport city of New York during that most colorful and adventurous time in our history, both the practice of pirating and privateering were considered legitimate businesses. . . with privateering being of course the more honorable of the two, and it was at times difficult to distinguish between them. There was of course some danger involved in being in the trade, as from time to time maritime nations grew tired of having their ships plundered, and cracked down hard on known pirates and privateers suspected of crossing the line. Such was the case with one of New York's best known pirates, Captain William Kid, whose career started as a respectable privateer, but eventually turned to pirating, and ended dangling from the end of a rope in England in 1701.

More respectable business interests were also thriving on the tip of the island in the 1700's, especially that involving trade with the West Indies which had become firmly established by the Bolting Act. This trade had become extremely profitable because of the clever way it was being conducted. Traders in New York shipped commodities to the West Indies where they were exchanged for West Indian products, which were then shipped to England and again exchanged for English manufactured goods and wares, which were then in turn brought back to New York for a third sale or trade. . . each transaction resulting in a handsome profit to the city's enterprising merchants.

The city continued to grow and prosper under its maritime and inter-colonial trade. By the year 1716 the population had grown to about 6,500, and the city became the third largest in the colonies. The city grew northwardly, especially along the eastern shoreline, and by 1725 reached a population of about 8,000 souls at the time of map III. Northward growth was slower on the western side of the city as much of the city's business enterprises were associated with the thriving maritime activities concentrated along the East River shoreline. Here, from the docks at Whitehall St., all the way north to Walton's Shipyard and Roosevelt's Wharf, most of the major shipping activities were concentrated. . . for the very practical reason that the tidal saltwater flowing into the East River kept it safe from freezing throughout the winters. Consequently the shipbuilding yards, warehouses of the merchants who imported and exported goods of all kinds, and all the shops and businesses associated with the shipping industry were mostly located near or along the eastern shore. Shoppers and traders crossing over on the ferries from Brooklyn, Long Island and Staten Island also enhanced the brisk business activities along the eastern shore.

← Captain William Kid's career started as a respectable privateer, but eventually turned to pirating. (see 31) and it ended dangling from the end of a rope in England in 1701. (See also fig. 2-2).

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Fig. 2-2 Goovert Lookerman built this handsome house in the mid 1600's, and it later became the residence of the infamous Captain William Kidd from about 1691 to 1696. Kidd was later hanged in England for piracy. In the background a guard stands sentry duty at the "Half Moon Battery" inside the "Water Poort" gate at the East River end of the fortified wall that stretched across the northern limits of the city.

The Trinity Church on map III, was the first Trinity Church to be built on this site, and was completed in 1698. (See also fig. 2-3) →

Except for the big windmill at the end of windmill Lane, (see 49) and gardens and orchards, the entire tract was little more than open fields when Trinity was built. →

There were some very fine homes along the southern end of Broadway near the Bowling Green, but the northern end was in a rather remote and obscure part of town. The Trinity Church on map three, was the first Trinity Church to be built on this site, and was completed in 1698. The large tract of land that it was built on was at that time known as The King's Farm. . . almost entirely open land lying west of Broadway to the Hudson shoreline, and north of the church site. Except for the big windmill at the end of windmill Lane, and gardens and orchards, the entire tract was little more than open fields when Trinity was built. The entire parcel was granted to the Trinity Church in 1705 by then Gov. Lord Cornbury. Trinity had originally been granted only a small southern portion (on which the church was built) in 1696 by then Gov. Fletcher. Unfortunately, the church ownership of this large parcel of land delayed its utilization for building purposes, contributing to the slow growth of the city west of Broadway until about the mid 1700's.

The relatively small change along the western shoreline is evident when comparing map three with map two. But a comparison of the eastern shoreline clearly indicates that some landfill along the shore has begun, especially between the foot of Whitehall St. and Roosevelt's Wharf to the north. Space was already becoming a premium in this area of the city, and land values were increasing to the point where extending the shoreline by landfill was both practical and profitable. . . and there were many hilly areas of the city from which fill dirt and rocks could be obtained. Also note

THE TIP OF THE ISLAND

that the canal shown on map II has been filled in on map III, an action taken by the British in 1676 which provided the growing city with a fine wide thoroughfare which became known as "Broad Street."

Much in the way of public improvements during the period can be credited to the tireless work of Abraham DePeyster, who became Mayor in 1693. DePeyster was the son of one of the town's early Dutch Burgers, and became a wealthy and influential merchant. At age 35 he became mayor, and as a tireless public servant did much to improve the city. He provided the first system of relief for the poor, initiated improvements in sanitation, and built new wharves to enhance the city's status as a major seaport. He later went on to become Chief Justice of the province and President of the King's Council, and in 1701 he became Acting Governor upon the death of then Governor Bellomont. DePeyster was a moderating influence on the political tensions of the period, and is considered to represent the merging influences of both the early Dutch and English settlers.

By 1732 the bustling little city had reached a population of about 8,600 souls.

← The canal shown on map II has been filled in on map III (see 14), an action taken by the British in 1676, providing the growing city with a fine wide thoroughfare which became known as "Broad Street."
(See also fig. 1-3)

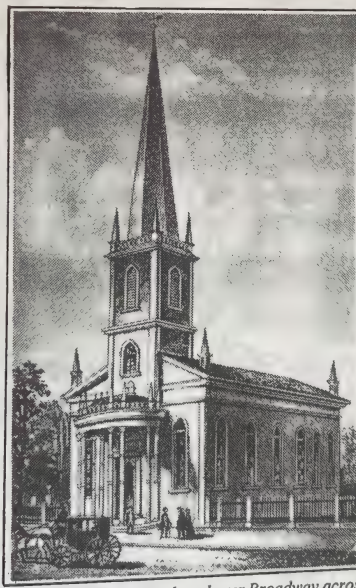
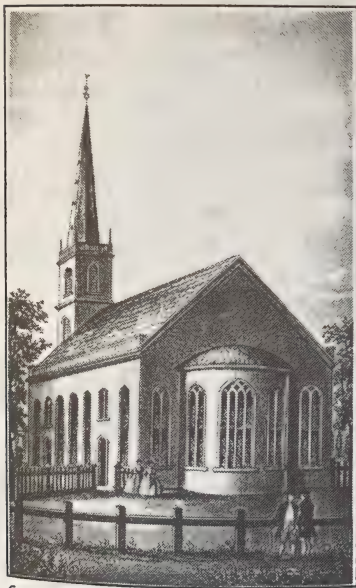


fig. 2-3 The three Trinity Churches which were built on the site of the present church on lower Broadway across from the intersection of Wall Street are shown above. Construction of the first (left) structure was started in 1698, and it was destroyed in the great fire of 1776. The second (middle) structure was started in 1788, and it was demolished in 1839 after a heavy snowfall caved in the entire roof. Construction of the third and most elegant present church was started in 1841. Throughout its entire history many dignitaries and prominent New Yorkers have attended services at Trinity.

THE SAGA OF LOWER MANHATTAN



CHAPTER THREE

About 1735 to 1785

The city plays an important role
in the colonist's fight for liberty.

The American Revolution is fought and won,
and a new, independent nation is established
seated in New York City.

Rebuilding begins
in the large area devastated by fire
as peace and tranquility return to the city.

MAP IV

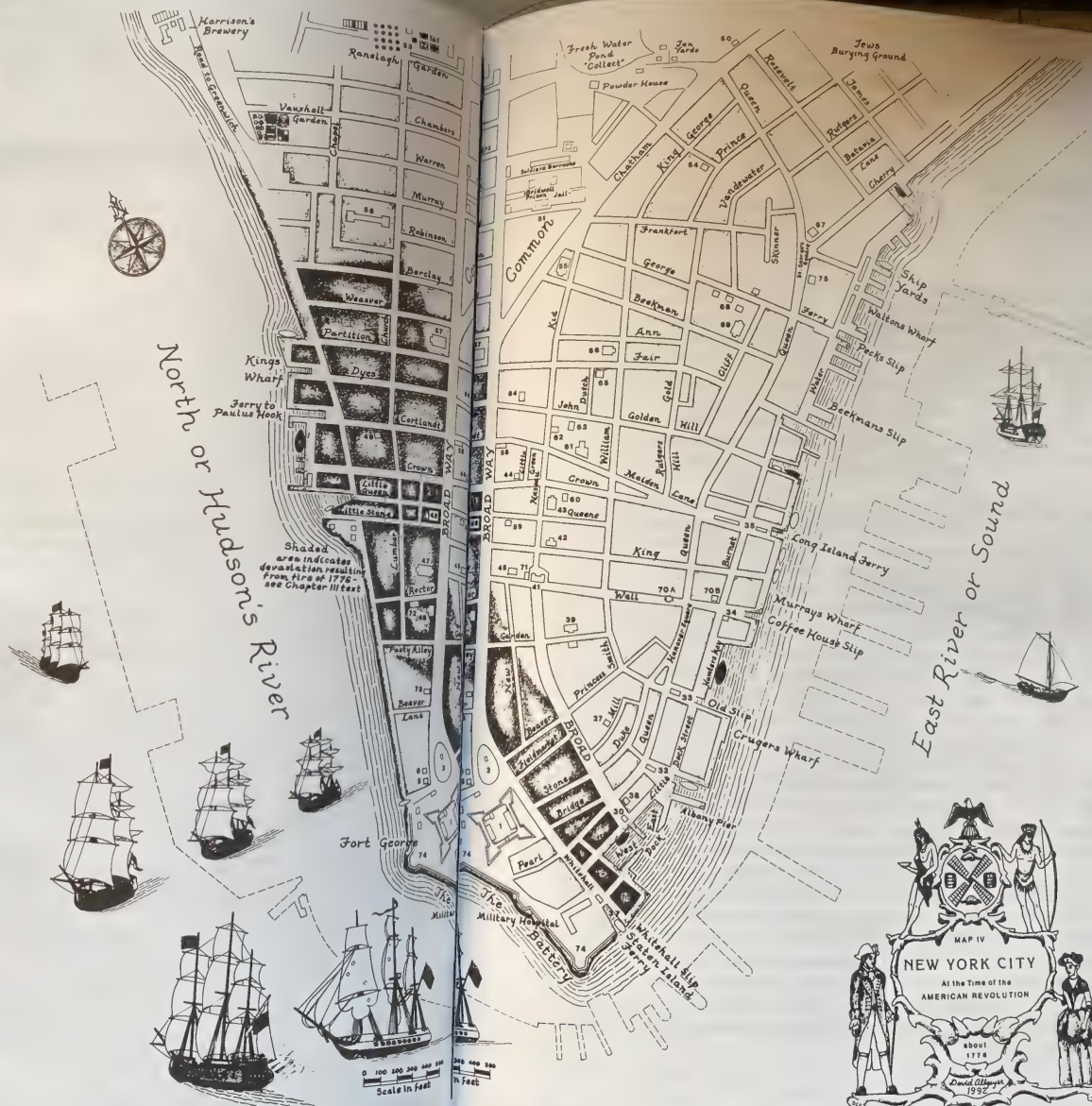
New York City
at the time of the American Revolution



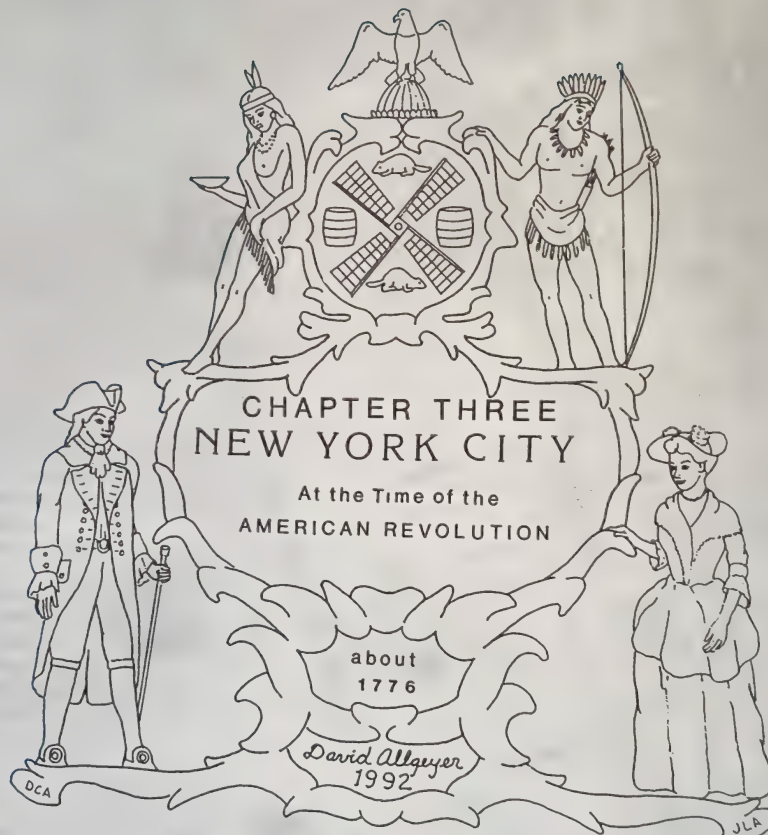
Map IV.

Places of interest and locations

- 1 BC-Fort George
- 3 BC-The Bowling Green
- 5 BC-No. 1 Broadway
- 6 BC-No. 9 & 11 Broadway
- 27 MC-First Jewish Synagogue
- 30 BC-The Merchant's Exchange
- 32 BC-Fish Market at Coenties Slip
- 33 BC-Old Slip Market
- 34 MC-Coffee House Slip
- Merchant's Coffee House
- 35 MC-The Fly Market
- 37 BC-Statens Island Ferry Dock
- 38 BC-Fraunces Tavern
- 39 MC-Dutch Reformed Church & School
- 41 MC-City Hall - then Federal Hall
- 42 MC-French Huguenot Church
- 43 MC-New Dutch Reformed Church
- 44 MC-Quaker Meeting House & Graveyard
- 45 MC-First Presbyterian Church
- 46 MC-Lutheran Church
- 47 MC-Trinity Church
- 48 MC-De Lancey Mansion
- City Arms & Burns Tavern
- 49 ML-Mesier's Windmill
- 50 TC-Tea Water Pump at Collect Pond
- 51 TC-The Common
- 53 TL-Ranelagh Gardens
- 54 TC-Rhineland Sugar House
- 55 TC-Brick Presbyterian Church
- 56 TL-King's College - Columbia Univ.
- 57 TC-St. Paul's Chapel
- 58 MC-The Oswego Market
- 59 MC-Scotch Presbyterian Church
- 60 MC-Livingston Sugar House
- 61 MC-Rulger's Brew House
- 62 MC-Nassau St. Theatre
- First Reformed Dutch Church
- 63 MC-Wesley Chapel - John St. Church
- 64 MC-The John Street Theatre
- 65 TC-Moravian Church
- 66 TC-North Dutch Church
- 67 TR-First Presidential Mason and St. George's Square
- 68 TC-Distillhouses
- 69 TC-St. George's Chapel
- 70A MC-The Buttonwood Tree
- 70B MC-Tontine Coffee House
- 71 MC-Simmon's Tavern
- 72 MC-English Free School
- 73 MC-McComb House - 2nd Pres. Mansion
- 74 BC-Battery Park
- 75 TR-Walton House



THE SAGA OF LOWER MANHATTAN



CHAPTER THREE

About 1735 to 1785

By 1736 the population of the little city on the tip of the island had grown to about nine thousand souls. In 1730 Gov. John Montgomerie granted the city a charter which essentially established it as a free city. The Montgomerie Charter enabled the Mayor to appoint subordinate officers, and with the approval of the majority of the common council, to enact or repeal any bylaws they desired. And in 1735, a jury acquitted Peter Zenger, publisher of the New York Weekly Journal, of charges of printing libelous statements about a public official. Thus, New Yorkers were gaining in their quest for self-government and the right to rule their own destinies. Yet the ultimate authority remained in the hands of the English governor and the Crown in England, and many began to express their resentment publicly.

Not everyone benefited from the gains being made in self determination. While some improvements were being made in the treatment of Negro slaves, such as the first school established for Negro slaves in 1705 by then mayor William Peartree, by and large the lot of the slave remained unchanged. At that time there were about 550 Negro slaves and a considerable number of Indian slaves in the city. In 1712 an insurrection of Negroes had taken place but it was quickly suppressed by then governor Robert Hunter. Many white men were wounded and nine were slain by the rioters. In retaliation 21 Negroes were convicted and executed and many others were imprisoned. Again in 1741 an alleged Negro conspiracy to burn the city of New York was uncovered, and within the following year 18 Negroes were hanged, 14 were actually burned at the stake, and 71 were deported out of the colony. The so called "plot of 1741" did much in checking the growth of slavery in the city.

By the mid 1700's New York was becoming a seat of political agitation in the colonies. When they learned of the passage of the Stamp Act in 1765 New Yorkers were outraged, and the "Stamp Act Congress" was formed and called a meeting in the City Hall. Made up of representatives from nine colonies, they issued a Declaration of Rights and Grievances, and along with additional protests, dispatched it to the British Government. About that same time the "Sons of Liberty," or "Liberty Boys" as they were also called, was formed and began their agitation of the British forces who were officially stationed there to protect them. The stamps arrived on a British ship while the Colonial Congress was still in session, but because of the passionate resistance being expressed by the colonists it was decided to secretly land them at night and keep them inside Fort George. On the day of the Act's inception, Nov. 1, 1765, a crowd gathered outside the fort on the Bowling Green, where they proceeded to hang

← In 1735, a jury acquitted Peter Zenger, publisher of the New York Weekly Journal, of charges of printing libelous statements about a public official (see 41), thus establishing the principle of freedom of the press.

← When they learned of the passage of the Stamp Act in 1765 New Yorkers were outraged, and the "Stamp Act Congress" was formed and called a meeting in the City Hall (see 41).

← "Sons of Liberty," or "Liberty Boys" see fig. 3-1.

← On the day of the Act's inception, Nov. 1, 1765, a crowd gathered outside the fort on the Bowling Green, (see 3) where they proceeded to hang Lieut. Gov. Colden in effigy.

THE SAGA OF LOWER MANHATTAN

Lieut. Gov. Colden in effigy. The Sons of Liberty and the city's merchants remained firm in their resistance to the Act, and in March of 1766 it was finally repealed.

During the ensuing years conflicts between the Sons of Liberty and the British soldiers became an almost daily event, and the city became the center of resistance to royal authority. To make matters worse, the British were pressing New York sailors into service on British war ships. Eventually the conflicts between the citizens and the British soldiers became so intense that they began to inflict bodily harm on one another during their skirmishes, and the prospects for a peaceful coexistence were growing dimmer with each passing day.

In early Jan. 1770, several skirmishes had broken out between the Sons of Liberty and British soldiers in the vicinity known as "Golden Hill" . . . a name given the stretch of John St. between William and Queen streets because of the golden wheat fields that had flourished in the area. About six weeks before the Boston Massacre and a full five years before the Battle of Lexington, the first American blood was shed in the struggle for liberty here. . . not with bullets, but with fists, clubs, bayonets and swords. No one was killed in the Battle of Golden Hill on Jan. 19, 1770, but several patriots and British soldiers were badly wounded. Sporadic fighting continued to break out in the area in the following days, and continued until Mayor Whitehead Hicks was forced to issue a proclamation forbidding soldiers to leave their barracks without the accompaniment of a noncommissioned officer.

In 1773 Lord North levied a tax on tea being imported into the colonies, an act which stirred Bostonians to board the British ships disguised as Indians and dump their cargos of tea in the harbor. Paul Revere brought news of the defiant "tea party" to New Yorkers who held an equal contempt for the new Tea Act and Lord North. In April 1774, the British ship "London" arrived in New York Harbor with a load of tea to be landed. The Sons of Liberty didn't bother to dress like Indians when they boarded her, and proceeded to dump 18 cases of tea into the East River after learning that the British had closed the Port of Boston in punishment for their actions.

A meeting was held in Fraunces' Tavern, and a committee of 51 was elected which promptly called for a meeting of the Intercolonial Congress. The original committee was then dissolved, and a new "Committee of 60" was elected to enforce in New York the Nonimportation Act of the First Continental Congress passed in Philadelphia in Oct. 1774. The Act called for an Association of the Colonies to provide for nonimportation and nonconsumption of British goods after Dec. 1, 1774. . . severing the economic ties between the colonies and Great Britain.

On April 19, 1775, the inevitable happened at Lexington and Concord near Boston. . . the colonial Minutemen clashed with British troops, and "the shot heard around the world" was fired. When news of the battle reached New York, a crowd seized City Hall and the arms and munitions stored there. Others proceeded to board two British ships in the harbor and took command of the vessels. The "Committee of

In early Jan. 1770, several skirmishes had broken out between the Sons of Liberty and British soldiers in the vicinity known as "Golden Hill" . . . a name given the stretch of John St. between William and Queen streets (see map IV) because of the golden wheat fields that had flourished in the area (see fig. 3-1). →

A meeting was held in Fraunces' Tavern, (see 38) and a Committee of 51 was elected which promptly called for a meeting of the Intercolonial Congress. →

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60" called for a meeting of a Provincial Congress which met in New York and promptly declared its obedience to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. In April 1776 New York was placed under military rule, and by mid year General Washington had moved his command there. On July 9, 1776, Washington had a brigade of his troops assembled on the Common and read to them a final draft of the Declaration of Independence which he had just received from the Second Continental Congress. Its reading so impassioned the Liberty Boys that they celebrated by pulling down the statue of King George III from its pedestal on the Bowling Green. The statue had been erected in June of 1770 by members of the Assembly during one of those rare periods in which they were feeling kindly towards the royal ruler, in recognition of his role in repealing the Stamp Act. But now things were different, the dogs of war had been unleashed, and the leaden King would be of better use when melted down into bullets to be used against His Majesty's troops!

← The reading of the Declaration of Independence so impassioned the Liberty Boys that they celebrated by pulling down the statue of King George III from its pedestal on the Bowling Green (see 3).



fig. 3-1 British soldiers cut down Liberty Poles such as this one being raised by the Sons of Liberty in the scene above. Such conflicts led to the start of Physical violence between the two factions and the Battle of Golden Hill was where the first American blood was shed in 1770.

In 1776 the population of the city had grown to about 23,000 souls, becoming the nation's second largest city. Now, along with the other colonies, they were engaged in a great revolutionary war with the mightiest military power on earth. Now the colonies who were more often than not at odds with one another, would of necessity live and act as one nation, and New Yorkers were totally committed to the

← New York becomes the nation's second largest city as the colonies find a common bond of unity.

THE SAGA OF LOWER MANHATTAN

Throughout the 1700's the city continued to use the fresh water "Collect Pond" for its water supply (see 50). →

City Hall Park (see 51) →

St. Paul's Chapel (see 57) →

King's College (see 56) →

By 1776 little theaters began to flourish, as did some very fine, restaurants, hotels and resorts (see 48, 62, 64, 71, and 104). (See also fig. 3-2) →

Ranelagh Gardens (see 53) →

Whitehall Slip (see map) →

common cause. Up until that time the city had continued its vigorous growth, still mainly to the northeast along the bustling waterfront of the East River, but now the western side of the city was pushing northward as well. That large track of land that had laid dormant through the turn of the century as the King's Farm and remained so after being granted to Trinity Church in 1705, was finally made available for development. And the large tract of swampy land known as "Beekman's Swamp" was gradually filled in and made suitable for building sites. Even the old "Sweetmilk" and "Buttermilk" ponds had gradually disappeared. Throughout the 1700's the city continued to use the fresh water "Collect Pond" for its water supply, but it too was slowly being filled in for building sites. Also that large triangular shaped parcel of land known as "The Common" (later known as City Hall Park), was already becoming the central area of governmental and military facilities.

During the mid and late 1700's many new churches were built in the city. . . as were a goodly number of breweries and distilleries. It seems that New Yorkers of this period kept the traditions of their forefathers pretty well intact. . . never let your spiritual faith stand in the way of a spirited life! Two of New York's most famous institutions, St. Paul's Chapel and King's College (now Columbia) were built on the old "King's Farm" parcel west of the northern end of Broadway. Also during the period New Yorkers were becoming a more cultured and refined society, and by 1776 little theaters began to flourish, as did some very fine restaurants, hotels and resorts. Travel within the city was made easier by better streets and more of them. However, with the exception of a few more heavily traveled roads, the outskirts of the city north of the Ranelagh Gardens and the Collect Pond remained relatively undeveloped.

Commuting between neighboring towns had become fairly common, as ferry service to Brooklyn, Staten Island, Long Island and New Jersey became more reliable. Many new wharves and docks were added, particularly along the East River shoreline, in what was to become a common practice of pushing the banks further and further into the waters edge.

As the war progressed, the British considered the city to be of crucial importance because of its strategic central location on the northeastern seaboard and its control of the harbor inlets to the East and Hudson rivers. On July 12, 1776, British Admiral Richard Howe took control of the harbor with his fleet, and by the end of September had successfully driven Washington's troops off Manhattan Island. By October the British had gained complete control of the city, and held it until the end of the war.

Shortly after midnight of Sept. 20, just as the city was falling into the hands of the British, a fire broke out at Whitehall Slip which was to become one of the most devastating in the city's history. While the threat of a serious fire was an ever present danger, even the people of New York were unprepared for the devastation that was unleashed upon them by that terrible fire. It started in a small wooden house near

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THE TIP OF THE ISLAND

Whitehall Slip and spread rapidly, fanned by strong winds out of the southeast. By mid day of the twenty first the fire had completely devastated much of the southern and western portion of the city. A fairly accurate representation of the area of devastation is shown on the map. The British blamed it on the Americans, as an attempt to prevent them from housing great numbers of troops in the city. This allegation was denied by General Washington and the Continental Congress, who in turn blamed it on drunken British seamen accidentally setting fire to an old pub down by the wharf. The fire was eventually brought under control by British seamen who were ordered ashore by Gen. William Howe, but only after it had already consumed some 493 buildings in its destructive path.

← 493 buildings were destroyed in the terrible fire of 1776 (see area of devastation on map IV).



fig. 3-2 The City Hotel was built in 1783 on the site of the old Burns Tavern on the west side of Broadway between Little Queen (Cedar St.) and Little Stone (Thames St.), and it quickly became the city's most prestigious hotel. But by the time of the scene above in which the third Trinity Church (completed in 1846) is shown on the left, its popularity was on the wane because of other new and even more splendid hotels, and it was torn down in 1849.

As if the anguish from the fighting and bloodshed and terrible destruction wasn't enough, New Yorkers endured additional hardships and suffering during the course of the war. The citizens suffered severely from shortages of food and medical supplies, and sickness and harsh treatment at the hands of the British. And the city's churches, warehouses, jails and other suitable buildings were used by the British as prisons and hospitals, and were packed beyond their capacities with sick, wounded and well prisoners. One such prison was made of the Livingston sugar house, which became so notorious that the prisoners scrawled their "last will and testaments" on the walls shortly after being confined. And only two yrs. after the terrible fire of 1776, in Aug. of 1778 another fire destroyed over 60 houses and many stores, and the plight of New

← One such prison was made of the Livingston sugar house (see 60), which became so notorious that the prisoners scrawled their "last will and testaments" on the walls shortly after being confined.

THE SAGA OF LOWER MANHATTAN

Yorkers became increasingly intolerable. They lived under military rule with no civil government or law enforcement, and oppression and abuse of civilians by the British soldiers was commonplace, often resulting in fights and riots.

Somehow the people managed to survive this devastating period, and eventually the war turned in favor of the American forces. On Oct. 18, 1781 Lord Cornwallis surrendered the British forces to Gen. Washington at Yorktown and the conflict was ended. Sir Guy Carleton became Commander of the British forces in the city, and immediately moved to restore law and order, and bring an end to the suffering and injustices that had been tolerated under the command of Sir Henry Clinton. The formal conclusion of the war came in 1783 with the signing of the Treaty of Paris, in which the British government formally recognized the independence of the thirteen colonies.

With the successful conclusion to the end of the terrible ordeal, New Yorkers began the long and arduous task of rebuilding their city. The fire of 1776 had devastated much of the city, and much of the area that had been destroyed had become the site of what was known as "Canvas Town" because of the community of huts and tents that had sprung up there. While Trinity Church had been destroyed, a shifting of the winds had saved St. Paul's and King's College. But New Yorkers had become accustomed to making the best of the worst of times and got on with the business of rebuilding their lives and their city.

On Dec. 4, 1783 General Washington gave his farewell address to his troops at Fraunces' Tavern and departed the city. In 1784 the state legislature began meeting in City Hall, and the city remained the state capital until the capital was moved to Albany in 1797. And from 1785 to 1790 the federal Congress also met in City Hall. Making the city both the state and national capital for a period of time.

While Trinity Church (see 47) had been destroyed, a shifting of the winds had saved St. Paul's (see 57) and King's College (see 56). →

On Dec. 4, 1783 General Washington gave his farewell address to his troops at Fraunces' Tavern (see 38)(see also fig. 3-3). →

City Hall (see 41) →

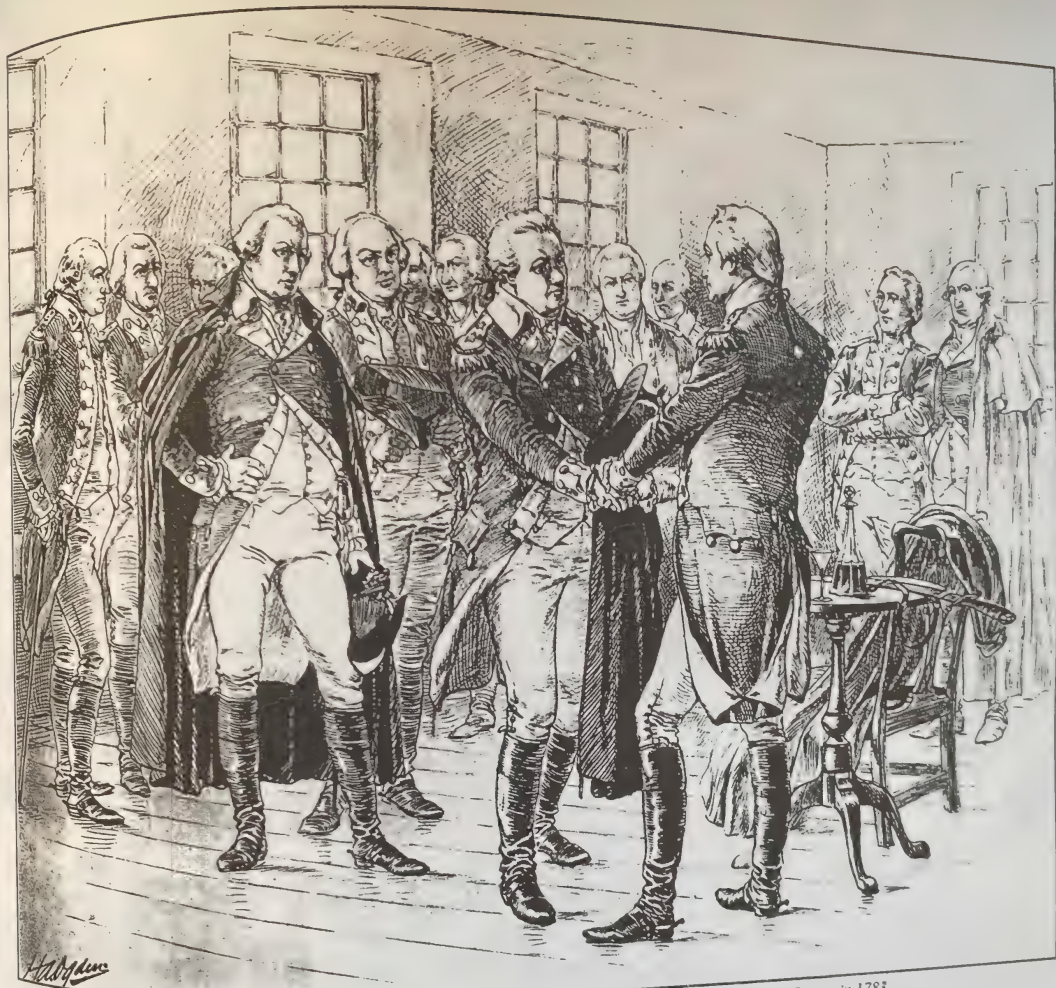


Fig. 3-3 General Washington wept as he bid his last farewell to his officers at Fraunces' Tavern in 1783.

THE SAGA OF LOWER MANHATTAN



CHAPTER FOUR

About 1786 to 1836

The city installs
the new nation's first President
and becomes its first Capital.

The population soars as
the city becomes a Mecca for immigrants.

Another devastating fire and war are endured,
but the indomitable spirit of the city prevails.

MAP V

Lower Manhattan
New York City
The nation's largest city

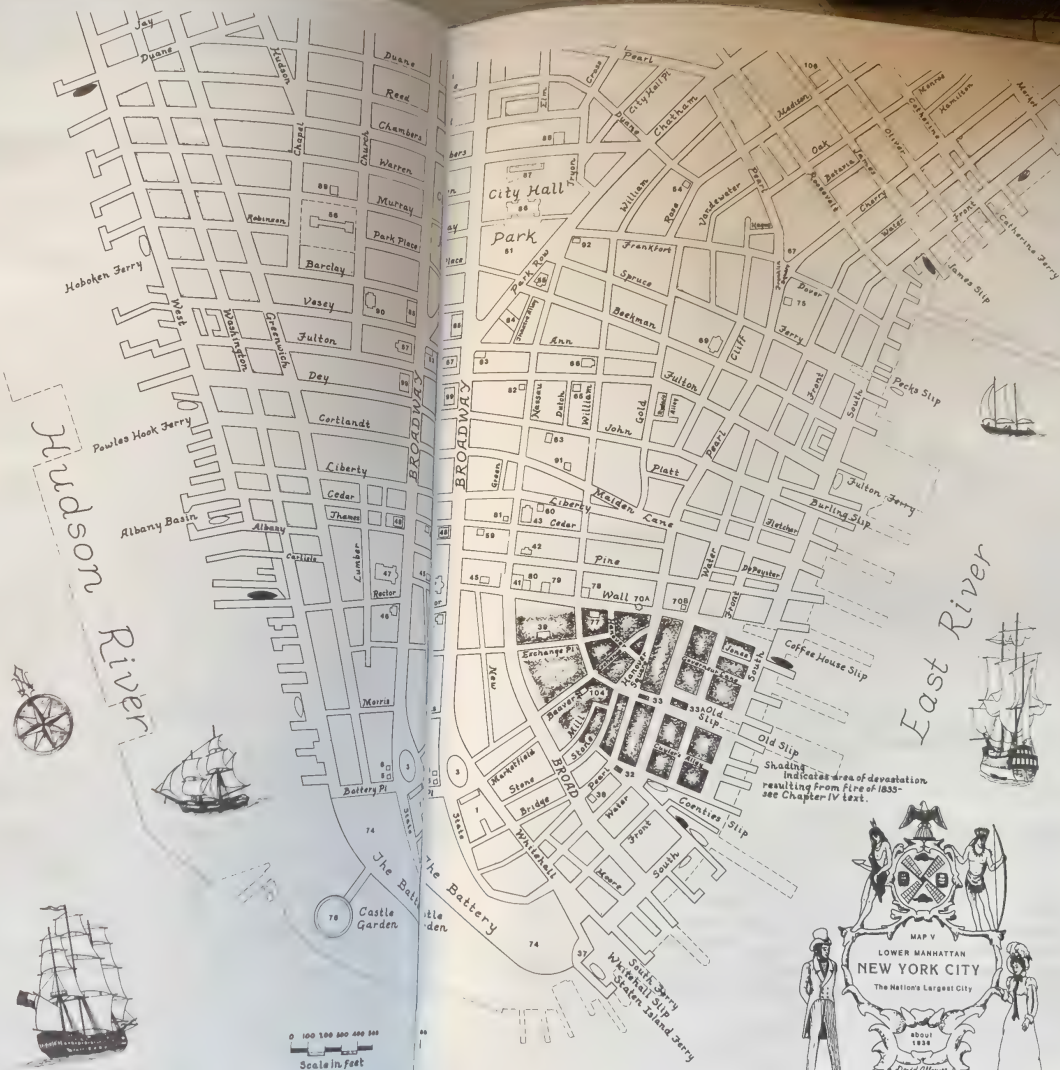




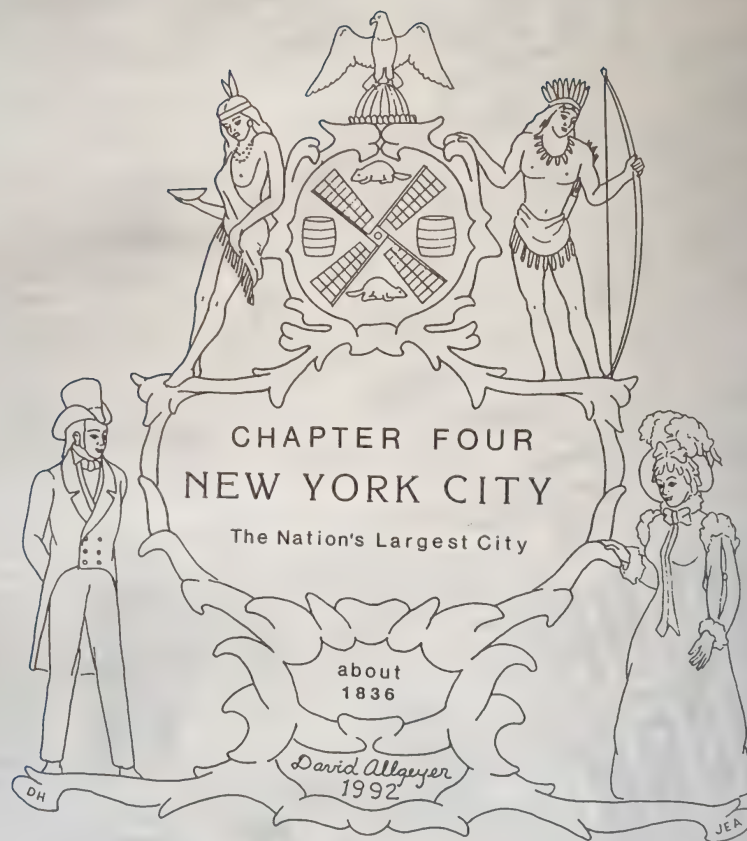
Map V.

Places of interest and locations

- 1 BC-Government House
- 2 BC-The Bowling Green
- 3 BC-No. 1 Broadway
- 6 BC-No. 9 & 11 Broadway
- 32 BC-Fish Market at Coenties Slip
- 33 MC-Old Slip Market
- 33A MC-The Franklin Market
- 37 BC-Staten Island Ferry Dock
- 38 BC-Fraunces Tavern
- 39 MC-Dutch Reformed Church & School
- 41 MC-United States Custom House
- 42 MC-French Huguenot Church
- 43 MC-New Dutch Reformed Church
- 45 MC-First Presbyterian Church
- 46 MC-Grace Church
- 47 MC-Trinity Church
- 48 MC-The City Hotel
- 51 TC-City Hall Park
- 54 TC-Rhineland Sugar House
- 55 TC-Brick Presbyterian Church
- 56 TL-King's College - Columbia Univ.
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- 59 MC-Scotch Presbyterian Church
- 60 MC-Livingston Sugar House
- 63 MC-Wesley Chapel - John St. Church
- 65 TC-Moravian Church
- 68 TC-North Dutch Church
- 67 TR-St. George's - Franklin Square
- 69 TC-St. George's Chapel
- 70A MC-The Buttonwood Tree
- 70B MC-Tontine Coffee House
- 74 BC-Battery Park
- 75 TR-Walton House
- 76 BC-Castle Garden
- 77 MC-Merchants Exchange
- 78 MC-Bank of New York
- 79 MC-The Manhattan Company
- 80 MC-United States Sub-Treasury
- 81 TC-New York's First Public Library
- 82 TC-Shakespeare Hotel
- 83 TC-Scudder's American Museum
- 84 TC-Park Theatre
- 85 TC-Astor House Hotel
- 86 TC-City Hall
- 87 TC-Alms House
- 88 TC-Manhattan Company Reservoir
- 89 TL-3rd Assoc. Ref. Scotch Pres. Church
- 90 TC-St. Peter's Catholic Church
- 91 MC-Thomas Jefferson's Residence
- 92 TC-Tammany Hall Building
- 93 TC-Franklin House Hotel
- 104 MC-DeMunio's 1st Restaurant



THE SAGA OF LOWER MANHATTAN



THE TIP OF THE ISLAND

CHAPTER FOUR About 1786 to 1836



Fig. 4-1 Looking North from the foot of Broadway at the Bowling Green. Captain Archibald Kennedy bought the land at No. 1 Broadway from Abraham De Peyster (whose statue still stands in Bowling Green Park) and built his large mansion shown at the extreme left in 1771. Many of the city's wealthiest citizens lived in the row of elegant mansions shown here. The McComb mansion in the second block (by carriage) was the second Presidential Home of George Washington (see 73).

The population of the city was about 23,600 souls in 1786, and New Yorkers were going about the business of retaking charge of their own affairs and rebuilding their new lives in the new nation of free men. On April 23, 1789, members of both houses of the federal Congress which had been meeting in City Hall, which was then nearing completion of the work to rebuild and expand it to become the Federal Hall, gathered with a large crowd at Murray's Wharf at the foot of Wall St. to greet the new first President George Washington. New Yorkers were proud of the distinction of having their city become the new nation's first capital, and the mansion of Walter Franklin had been prepared for the new President's first official home. Washington

← Federal Hall (see 41)

← A large crowd gathered to greet the new country's first President at Murray's Wharf (see fig. 4-2).

← The President's first official home (see 67 & 73) (see also fig. 4-1).

THE SAGA OF LOWER MANHATTAN

grew to consider the location of Franklin House to be too far "out of town," and in 1790 moved to the McComb mansion on lower Broadway. . . closer to the Federal Hall.



Fig. 4-2 New York welcomes President-elect George Washington arriving at the foot of Wall Street in 1789.

The people's confidence in the emerging new democracy was running high, and they held their very dedicated and capable new political leaders in high regard. Now, for the first time in history, a nation and its people had the opportunity to mold and shape their own destinies thru a new form of self government of the people, by the people and for the people . . . and the little city here on the tip of the island had become the heart of it all!

On Feb. 5, 1784, Gov. George Clinton appointed James Duane the first American Mayor of New York City. And in March 1784, the Bank of New York was founded as the first commercial bank in the U.S., with Alexander Hamilton as its Director, while in May King's College became known as Columbia College by an act of the legislature, and became New York's first state university. There was indeed a

The nation's first commercial bank - The Bank of New York (see 78). →

King's College became known as Columbia College (see 56). →

THE TIP OF THE ISLAND

flourish of activity throughout the city as it neared the end of the century. Many new streets were being laid out across the city, while older ones were being improved. The old Fort George was demolished in 1789 to make room for the new Government House which was intended to serve as the Presidential Mansion, but the offer was declined by George Washington who preferred to take quarters in a private residence.

In 1790 the federal capital was moved to Philadelphia, and in 1797 the state capital was moved to Albany. No longer the nation's political capital, New Yorkers moved to make their city its commercial and financial capital. But local politics were destined to continue to play an important role in the city's future, and in 1789 the "Society of Saint Tammany" was formed. This was the beginning of the powerful and often corrupt political machine in the city's history. The city's first public utility corporation, the Manhattan Company was founded in 1799 by Aaron Burr and his associates. While the purpose for which it was originally chartered by the city was to provide and distribute a reliable and safe water supply throughout the city, Burr and his associates used the company to gain special banking privileges for themselves and their political affiliations.

✦ The demolition of old Fort George makes room for the new Government House (see 1) (see also fig. 4-3).

✦ New Yorkers moved to make their city into the nation's capital of finance & commerce (see fig. 4-4).

✦ "Tammany Hall" formed (see 92).

✦ Aaron Burr founds the Manhattan Company (see 79).



Fig. 4-3 The Government House was built on the site of the old fort just below the Bowling Green in 1789-90. It was intended to serve as the nation's first Presidential Mansion, but George Washington preferred being quartered in a private home and it became the Governor's Mansion for Governor George Clinton.

By 1807 New York was once again becoming the nation's most dynamic and fastest growing city, and there were 19 newspapers, eight of which were published daily, making New Yorkers the best informed citizenry in the world. De Witt Clinton served as one of the city's early mayors from 1803 to 1815. He was an extremely

THE SAGA OF LOWER MANHATTAN

capable and innovative mayor, and is credited with having done much to improve the welfare of its inhabitants during his reign as mayor and later as governor. He advocated free and accessible education, and was successful in opening Public School No. 1 with public and private funding. Columbia College was also improved, and the arts and letters were stimulated under his administration. He promoted training teachers in state normal schools, sought to improve conditions for the poor, and advocated the abolition of slavery in New York . . . which was later accomplished by an act of legislature in 1827 . . . almost 35 years before the outbreak of the civil war. Clinton also promoted the building of the Erie Canal to provide a direct water connection between the Hudson River and Lake Erie, and served as chairman of the canal commission during the start of its construction. He later served several terms as governor of the state.

Columbia College (see 56). →

Mayor DeWitt Clinton promotes the construction of the Erie Canal. →



Fig. 4-4 The merchants and brokers who had been meeting under Wall Street's old buttonwood tree began meeting at the Tontine Coffee House shown at left in the above scene of the intersection of Wall and Water streets in 1792, when the New York Stock Exchange was formally founded. Cargo from the ships seen anchored at Coffee House Slip in the right background is scattered about the streets for sale and trading auction.

On Dec. 22, 1807, Congress passed the "Embargo Act of 1807" prohibiting any ships from leaving United States ports to carry on trade with any foreign nations unless under the immediate direction of the President of the United States. France and Britain had been at war, and while Napoleon's forces controlled much of Europe, England still dominated the seas and had been stopping American ships from entering European ports and capturing American sailors. The Jefferson administration hoped

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THE TIP OF THE ISLAND

that denying the benefits of American trade to both England and France would somehow lead to a peaceful solution to the problem. But the act dealt a serious blow to American merchants, farmers and shippers, and the port of New York was among the hardest hit. Fortunately the act did have the effect of stimulating domestic activities in the city. Many new buildings were constructed, including Castle Clinton, churches, and the new City Hall, and the new buildings were very much advanced in both architectural design and construction. And the flourish of building activity was no longer confined to the areas along the shorelines but spread throughout the city.

Many of the American sailors who had been captured by the British were pressed into serving on His Majesty's ships in the war against the French. Also, England had been making inroads on America's western frontier. On June 18, 1812, America declared war against England. . . and the War of 1812 was underway. In New York several new forts were built and once again the city was forced to assume a defensive military posture. The British imposed a blockade on the city which caused severe hardships because of the city's dependence on water transportation for much of its interaction with the rest of the state and nation. The war continued badly for both sides, and eventually representatives of both nations met to seek a peaceful solution. On Feb. 11, 1815 the British ship "Favorite" sailed into New York harbor under a flag of truce bearing the Treaty of Ghent, which brought an end to the conflict.

By 1820 New York had become the nation's largest city, with a population of about 124,000 souls. The number of foreign immigrants pouring into the city was constantly increasing and severely taxing the city's ability to absorb and provide for them. Living conditions were not always adequate, and health and sanitation problems began plaguing the city. Several major epidemics of yellow fever, smallpox and malaria broke out during the period from 1798 to 1833, at times claiming several hundred victims in a day. Yet New York remained the gateway to the land of opportunity, and there seemed to be no end to the steady stream of immigrants pouring into the city.

In 1825 the Erie Canal was opened and the port city of New York became the most important link between the eastern seaboard and the mid west. The 360 miles inland waterway stretched between Albany and Buffalo proved to be a vast improvement over the rough and often impassible roads formerly offering the only means of travel between the two regions. The canal boats were pulled by horses or mules which walked the paths along the banks.

During the ten years from 1820 to 1830 the population had increased by a phenomenal 78,000 souls, to a total of 202,000 in 1830. Fortunately some technological advances had been made to improve the quality of city living, such as a water distribution system and gas distribution system for lighting streets and homes. A reliable supply of running water in homes and buildings was of benefit not only from the standpoint of convenience and health, but also helped in controlling fires that were all too common throughout the city. Public transportation still relied on horse drawn

← Many new buildings were constructed, including Castle Clinton (see 76), churches, and the new City Hall (see 86), and the new buildings were very much advanced in both architectural design and construction.

← America declares war on England - thus began the War of 1812, and the British blockaded the city once again.

← Immigrants continued to pour into the city even as deadly epidemics broke out.

← Horse-drawn coaches became the city's first form of public transportation.

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coaches south of Chambers St., but a little further north the city was being introduced to its first attempt at a mass transit system. The New York and Harlem Railroad, a horsecar line, was opened along the Bowery and 4th. Ave. from Prince St. to 14th. St. in 1832. The line was soon extended down Centre St. as far south as Chambers. Steam locomotives were introduced on the line in 1839, but by 1842 were banned in the lower more congested part of the city.



Fig. 4-5 The scene looking north on Broadway across Canal Street is just north of the area covered in this book, but is included here because it typifies the hustle and bustle of activities in lower Manhattan since the early 1800's. The traffic is relatively light compared to the increasingly congested conditions which were to become commonplace throughout the ensuing years. The two omnibuses with their four-horse teams and top-hatted coachmen offered the city's first form of public transportation.

The old "Park Theater" (see 84). →

"Castle Garden" (see 76). →

"Scudder's American Museum" (see 83). →

Populated by people of many cultures and traditions, the city was becoming increasingly cosmopolitan in flavor, and a center of support and appreciation for the performing arts. Theaters were becoming scattered throughout the city, with several located in the area around "Theater Alley" in the vicinity of Broadway and Chatham St. (Park Row). The old "Park Theater" was one of the city's largest during this period, and drew a most distinguished audience at its performances, as did the "Castle Garden" off the tip of the island at the Battery. Another popular place where one was sure to find a more unusual variety of entertainment was to be found at the "Scudder's American Museum," which later became "P.T. Barnum's Museum" of world renown, at the intersection of Broadway and Park Row.

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Fig. 4-6 View of the south of Wall Street and the few remain

THE TIP OF THE ISLAND

While the ranks of volunteer firefighters had swelled to several thousand by 1835 at the time of Map V, and there was some water distribution piping installed throughout the city, the threat of fire running out of control continued. It was still all too common for a fire to spread thru several buildings before it could be brought under control. And the gas distribution system that was being installed throughout the city only added to the hazard. Weather conditions such as dryness, temperature and the strength and direction of the prevailing wind also played an important role.

On a cold wintery night of Dec. 17, 1835, a fire was started by a gas explosion about 9:00 P.M. in the dry goods store of Comstock & Adams, on a narrow street of dry goods and hardware merchants near Hanover and Pearl streets. The volunteers turned out in force to try to contain it, but the temperature stood near 15 below zero, and the water froze in the hydrants, pumping wagons and hoses. It was quickly becoming a disaster in the making as the fire spread to the vicinity of Wall and Water streets. Thus began the great fire of 1835, which was soon consuming everything below Wall St. from the East River west to Broad Street. By the time it was brought under control it had consumed some 700 buildings covering an area of 20 acres, including all of Hanover Square. In destroying nearly all of the old Dutch structures still remaining in the old part of the city on the southeast tip of the island, it also destroyed the city's only remaining area linking it to its early colonial past.

← Thus began the great fire of 1835, which was soon consuming everything below Wall Street from the East River to Broad Street (see Map V - area of devastation). (See also fig. 4-6)



Fig. 4-6 View of the disastrous fire of December 1835 looking southeast at Wall and William streets. The fire destroyed nearly 700 buildings on the 13 acres lying south of Wall Street between Broad and South streets. The Merchants Exchange Building whose skeleton facade stands just left of center, the South Dutch Church and the few remaining original old Dutch buildings were among the many totally destroyed by the spectacular fire.

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As the period from 1786 to 1836 drew to a close, New Yorkers had not only endured another war and disastrous fire, but several deadly epidemics as well. Yet as always, the spirit of the people prevailed and the city continued to prosper and grow. The population had grown to about a quarter million people, and new and improved streets were being installed in accordance with the new rectilinear grid known as the "Commissioner's Plan." Public utilities had been formed and the city continued installing water and gas service. The Government House which had been built on the site of old Fort George was destroyed by a fire in 1815, and the site had now become a row of elegant buildings known as "Nobs Row." The old "Common" which was the ground just above the intersection of Broadway and Chatham streets, had been transformed into "City Hall Park," and was the site of the magnificent new City Hall. And the area just to the north which had been the location of the old "Collect Pond" has been completely filled in, and now appears on Map 5 as just a northerly extension of the street grid for development sites. . . making the summer picnics, boating and fishing, and crowds of happy skaters on the winter ice a thing of the past. The area just north of Columbia College on the west side of Broadway around what had been the famous old "Ranelagh Gardens" has been dramatically changed. No longer an undeveloped expanse of open countryside, it too now appears as urbanized city blocks on the map.

"Nobs Row" (see 1) →

"City Hall Park" (see 51)

→

City Hall (see 86) →

"Ranelagh Gardens"
(see 53) →

Several acres of landfill have been added to the Battery as it assumed the identity of "Battery Park." The "Castle Garden" which had been built as a fort in preparation for the War with the British in 1808, has been converted to a popular entertainment center. A good deal of landfill has also been added to both the eastern and western shorelines south of Chambers St., densely saturated with wharves and docks to accommodate the city's growing stature as a world class maritime port.

As the city became more densely packed it of necessity became more urbanized. . . with the business and commercial district dominating the southern portion and the residential areas moving northward. Yet somehow the tip of the island managed to retain much of the character and charm of its early history. There were many lovely churches with more grand and beautiful ones being added all the time, and some fine old homes and row houses still stood on shady tree lined streets. There were market areas for shopping, some of which had been there for generations such as the Fish Market at Coenties Slip and the Franklin Market, and the beaches and parks for relaxation and family fun. . . and a goodly number of friendly Taverns and Inns such as Delmonico's, where one could always enjoy a fine dinner or just engage in some congenial conversation with family or friends.

New York shoppers still
relied heavily on the
city's outdoor market
centers such as Coenties
Slip (see 32) and
Franklin Market (see 33
& 33A). →

Delmonico's (see 104) →

In 1830, the eminent educator and historian George Bancroft issued a statement on the importance of the city having its own University. His support, along with the work of others, eventually led to the founding of New York University. The following excerpt from his statement perhaps best expresses the spirit and international ties of city at that time:

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"If attention recurs to New York, the mind readily recalls the extended relations of this city with the foreign world. Where can the wisdom of former generations, the intellectual inheritance bequeathed by the Old World to the New, where can it so readily be gathered and received as in the city, which has its agents under every zone and is connected by the closest bonds with every part of the civilized world?"

The subject gains a deeper interest when we consider the influence which New York must necessarily exert upon the country. The emigrant in the remotest settlements looks to this city as the place that connects him with the active world. Whether we give attention to it or not, New York, the mistress of the sea, holding also in her hands the keys of the interior, is the very heart of the business community; and its pulsations are felt throughout the land. The Christian philanthropist, the advocates of religious liberty, and the advocates of intelligence have to decide whether this extensive power shall be felt only through the markets and the exchange, or whether it shall be the means of fostering that great communion which exists among all the friends of humanity".

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CHAPTER FIVE

About 1837 to 1886

A constant stream of immigrants
swells the population
as corrupt politicians rise to power.

The Civil War breaks out
and the city is called to arms.

Improved transportation
is the key to mobility.

Shorelines move outward
as skylines move upward.

MAP VI

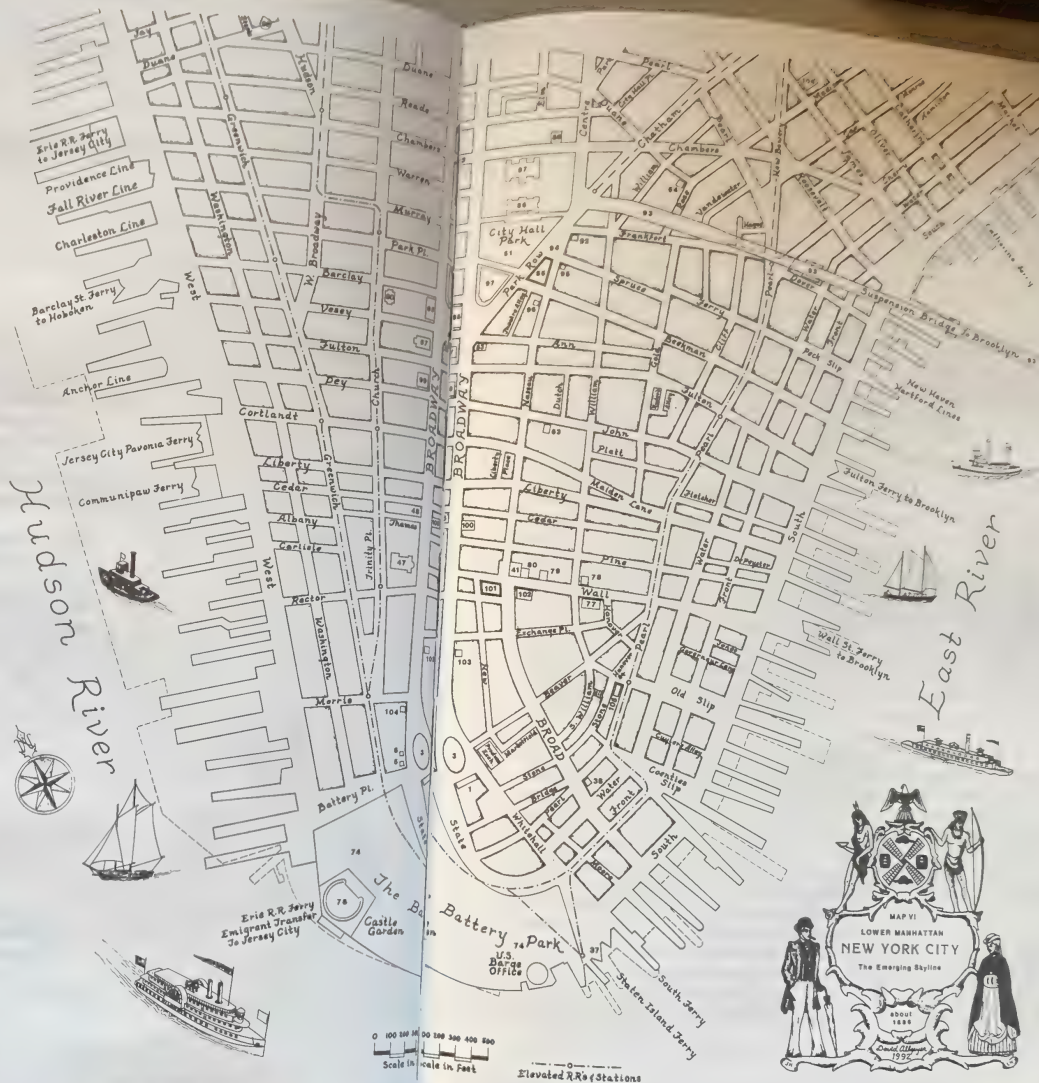
Lower Manhattan
New York City
The emerging skyline



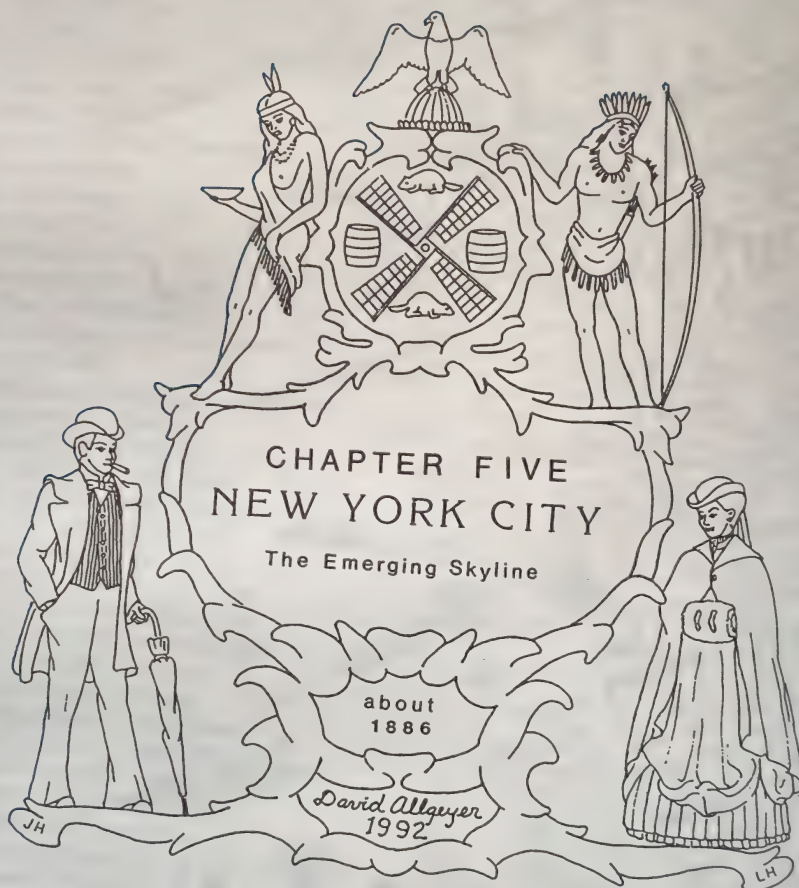
Map VI.

Places of interest and locations

1. BC--Steamship Row
3. BC--The Bowling Green
5. BC--No. 1 Broadway
6. BC--No. 9 & 11 Broadway
37. BC--Staten Island Ferry Dock
38. BC--Fraunces Tavern
41. MC--United States Sub-Treasury
47. MC--Trinity Church
48. MC--Various Stores
51. TC--City Hall Park
54. TC--Rhineland Sugar House
55. TC--New York Times Building
57. TC--St. Paul's Chapel
63. MC--Wesley Chapel - John St. Church
74. BC--Battery Park
78. BC--Castle Garden Immigration Depot
77. MC--Merchants Exchange
78. MC--Bank of New York
79. MC--The Manhattan Company
80. MC--U.S. Sub-Treasury - Assay Off.
83. TC--New York Herald Building
85. TC--Astor House Hotel
88. TC--City Hall
87. TC--N.Y. City "Tweed" Courthouse
88. TC--Manhattan Company Reservoir
90. TC--St. Peter's Catholic Church
92. TC--New York Sun Building
93. TR--Brooklyn Bridge & approaches
94. TC--Print House Sq. - Newspaper Row
95. TC--Currier and Ives
96. TC--First Bell Telephone Exchange
97. TC--United States Post Office
98. TL--American Express Co. 1st Office
100. MC--Equitable Building
101. MC--New York Stock Exchange
102. MC--Morgan Guaranty Trust Company
103. MC--Tower Building
104. MC--Delmonico's Hotel/Restaurant
105. MC--India House
108. TR--St. James Church



THE SAGA OF LOWER MANHATTAN



THE TIP OF THE ISLAND

CHAPTER FIVE About 1837 to 1886

Martin Van Buren, a Grand Sachem of the Society of Saint Tammany, became the President of the United States at the beginning of this period in 1837. The financial panic of 1837 was spreading across the nation, and the city's losses eventually totaled some \$60 million, at a time when New York was just recovering from the disastrous fire of 1835 which had destroyed almost 700 buildings. And once again the city had what it takes to overcome the adversities and make the most of its opportunities. The magnificent new Merchants Exchange building, which was built on the site of the old one that had been completely destroyed in the fire of 1835, opened in 1837. In 1839, the Bank of commerce of New York opened in the new Exchange building, which marked the beginning of the nation's most important banking service in the city which was to become the financial capital of the world. And in 1836 the elegant new Astor House Hotel opened, and quickly became the city's most popular hostelry. In 1837 St. Peters, the city's oldest Catholic parish built their imposing new granite structure on the site of the original church built back in 1786. In 1833 Ben Day founded the city's first penny newspaper the New York Sun, Nathaniel Currier (of "Currier & Ives" see 95) opened his first little print shop at 1 Wall St. in 1835, and in 1839 Bill Harnden originated the express business in America with a delivery service between New York and Boston. And so New Yorkers entered this period not as a dispirited people, but with energy and confidence in the future of their city. And in 1840, almost as if to acknowledge the city's impending greatness, Sir Samuel Cunard opened the legendary Cunard White Star Shipping line with service between Europe and the Port of New York in America.

The more densely populated portion of the city already reached far north of the area shown on the map as the population had swelled to about 313,000 souls by 1840. Land space was becoming increasingly scarce and valuable, especially in the area of the map, and many New Yorkers could no longer afford to own homes here. Many of those who did lived in tenements or apartments. Even the very wealthy owners of splendid older homes in the area began to migrate farther north where more desirable residential property was still available in the more affluent neighborhoods. Unfortunately, as many of the foreign immigrants who were pouring in by the thousands were too poor to attempt to venture far outside the area they had arrived at, slums began to spring up in the more run down neighborhoods of the city. While the living conditions for many new arrivals must have been of great disappointment, it was almost always superior to that which they had been accustomed to in their native lands. The city not only afforded them the opportunity to carve out a better life for

← Martin Van Buren,
Grand Sachem of the
Society of Saint Tammany,
becomes the nation's 8th
President (see 92).

← Merchants Exchange
building (see 77)
(see also fig. 5-1).

← Astor House Hotel
(see 85).

← St. Peters Catholic
Church (see 90).

← Currier & Ives
(see 95).

← New York Sun
(see 92).

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themselves and their families, but allowed a political and religious freedom unavailable in any other land. Nobody ever told them it would be easy and they were only too grateful for the opportunity.



Fig. 5-1 View looking east on Wall Street about 1845 showing the new Sub-Treasury building at left which later became Federal Hall National Monument. The new Merchants Exchange Building can be seen midway on the right, as can the famous buttonwood tree in the distant left.

As the city became increasingly congested, major improvements were being made to both land and water transportation (see fig. 5-4). →

Improvements in transportation and travel were essential to the unrestrained growth of the city. Prior to the 1830's all land transportation was via horseback, coach or wagon, or just plain walking. A precursor of the introduction of mass public transit systems was introduced in 1832, when the New York and Harlem Railroad established its first horsecar line, and later in 1839 cars pulled by steam locomotives. In the mid to late 1800's many of the city's brick and cobblestone streets were widened and new ones were added. All manner of strange looking wagons and coaches plied the streets of the city transporting every kind of goods, animals and people imaginable.

Improvements in water transportation were making even greater strides. Travel by way of the coastal waterways really got its start when Robert Fulton's new boat which he called "The Steamboat" made a historic 150 mile trip up the Hudson River

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from New York to Albany in 1807. Earlier inventors such as John Fitch of this city, had been experimenting with steam driven boats. Fitch had some success with a small steam driven craft which he demonstrated on the old "Collect Pond" in 1796 & '97. Fulton's claim to fame was not really as an inventor of the steamboat, but rather as the man who improved the steamboat for practical use. His "Steamboat" was improved and enlarged after the trip to Albany, and he registered it as the "Clermont" in 1808, and by the fall of 1808 it was making regularly scheduled trips up the Hudson, along with other boats Fulton had built in subsequent years. He also started a ferry service on the East River prior to his death in 1815. His body lies in the Trinity Church cemetery.

← Finch had some success with the small steam driven craft which he demonstrated on the old "Collect Pond" (see 50) in 1796 & '97.

← Trinity Church cemetery (see 47).



Fig. 5-2 Immigrants landing at the Battery in 1847. At the left is Castle Garden which at the time was an entertainment center but became the nation's major immigration depot in 1855. Foreign immigrants were becoming an ever increasing portion of the nation's total population, and by 1880 accounted for nearly 40 percent of all New Yorkers.

The age of the commodious, even luxurious side-wheelers and sternwheelers hauling passengers to and from the major cities on the eastern seaboard is a story in itself. During the mid and late 1800's steamboats played an important role in the development of our country, and were of particular importance to travelers in the New York City area. Water transportation offered two major advantages over land transportation. . . it was usually faster, and it was infinitely more comfortable and enjoyable. As its popularity grew, several boat lines competed for the business of travelers to and from Manhattan Island. By the 1840's competing lines were operating out of several of the city's docks. They not only offered transportation off the island to cities across the waters, but often shortened travel time by land to cities to the north. For example, the old "Sylvan Grove" which docked at Peck's Slip made the

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up to Harlem in about 30 minutes, instead of the 1½ to 2 hrs. required for the bumpy, dusty stagecoaches and horsecars.



Fig. 5-3 Two horse drawn sleighs collide in front of P.T. Barnum's Museum on Broadway at Ann Street amid a scene of merrymaking and snowball fracas in the winter of 1855.

The increasing popularity of shipping and travel by waterways causes a congestion of the city's wharfs and docks (see fig. 5-5). →

The most heavily traveled routes (and profitable) were those of the "Sound Steamers" . . . up the East River and thru the Sound to the more heavily populated cities to the north. Old Commodore Vanderbilt and Daniel Drew struggled for control of the Sound waterways in the 1840's. . . prior to their even greater battle for control of the nation's railroads. One of the best remembered and most successful lines of the period was the legendary old "Fall River Line," which ran regularly scheduled side-wheelers thru the waters of the Sound to Providence, New Bedford, Hartford, New Haven and other cities. The old line was originally started as the Bay State Steamboat Company in 1847. By about 1870 Jim Fisk took control of the booming company and it became the Fall River Line. In the 1890's the line was acquired by the illustrious J. Pierpont Morgan's New Haven Railroad Company.

During the late 1800's travel on the great side-wheelers plying the waters around New York City became so popular that the ships became larger and more



Fig. 5-4 include (Merchan Church (

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lavish with each new launching. Ships over 40 ft. wide and 300 ft. long, weighing over 3000 tons, and with grand ballrooms, such as the "Bristol," the "Chester W. Chapin," the "Priscilla" and the "City of New York" joined the fleets. Perhaps the grandest of them all was the "Pilgrim," the flagship of the Fall River Line launched in 1883. She was a double hulled "unsinkable" iron ship, with 12 boilers, and side paddlewheels over four-stories high. A marvel of the age, she had one thousand of Mr. Edison's new Incandescent electric lights, fitted out by no less than Mr. Tom Edison himself. . . and sleeping accommodations for twelve hundred passengers! The new Pilgrim is shown rounding the tip of the island having left her dock on the Hudson River side at the foot of Murray St. on map VI.



Fig. 5-4 This panoramic view of the tip of the island clearly shows the proliferation of docks lining both shorelines. Places of interest (see map V7 and Sec. II) shown include (from bottom upward): 76 - Castle Garden, 74 - Battery Park, 1 & 3 - Steamship Row (long building) and the Bowling Green at the foot of Broadway, 77 - Merchants Exchange (domed, square building), 80 - U.S. Sub-Treasury (Greek Revival Design on Wall Street), 41 - (next door right) U.S. Custom House, 47 - Trinity Church (West side Broadway at Wall Street), 57 - St. Paul's (up Broadway on left), 51 & 86 - City Hall Park and City Hall (to right just above St. Paul's).

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In the early 1900's the popularity of the steamers and ferries gradually declined. The introduction of the automobile and busses, improved roads and bridges, and the growth of faster more convenient and reliable rail service became the preferred mode of travel, and by 1940 the great steamers were all but forgotten.



Fig. 5-5 This view of the waterfront looking north along West Street from pier seven in 1869 captures much of the color and excitement of activities on the city's wharfs in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Since early colonial day's the city's maritime activities played a vital role in its growth and prosperity and provided fun and excitement for its citizens.

Many ideas were tried (some worked and some didn't) as the city entered the age of rapid transit systems. →

In the last half of the 1800's, the age of land rapid transit systems really began to flourish. In 1852 the Hudson River Railroad linked New York and Albany. And in 1868 the city's first elevated railroad opened on Greenwich St., running between the Battery and Courtland St. Built by Charles T. Harvey, the passenger cars were pulled by a cable and pulley system with stationary engines. The cable system proved impractical, and steam locomotives were added to the system when it was taken over by the New York Elevated Railroad Company in 1871. That marked the beginning of a network of elevated and street level transit systems that soon provided easily accessible travel to most parts of the city. Map VI shows the routes of the elevated R.R. lines in the lower part of the city about 1886.

Thus the age of mass and rapid transit systems was being ushered in, and while most systems were reasonably successful, there were a few failures along the way. In

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1870 a man named Joseph W. Beach opened the city's first underground subway, an experimental pneumatic subway! It extended for a few blocks under Broadway, from Warren to Murray streets, and it actually operated for a few years. But New York's first really successful subway was not introduced until the early 1900's. So successful has travel by subways become that the city would now be virtually paralyzed should they suddenly fail to operate for the three million passengers who now ride the city's 238 miles of systems each day.

In October of 1857 the economy of the city was badly shaken by a financial panic, followed by a severe depression. There was widespread unemployment and the city initiated a public works program to help put people back to work. Much of the work done on the development of Central Park was done during this period. By 1860 the threat of a Civil War appeared imminent, and the boom in supplying the Union's needs for military supplies spurred the economy's recovery.

Fernando Wood was the city's mayor in the years just preceding the Civil War. He was a leader of the "Copperheads," an organization of Northerners who sympathized with the south on the issue of slavery and succession. In Jan., 1861 he delivered a speech to the common council favoring the establishment of New York City as a separate state. Fortunately for the nation, on Feb. 27, 1860 Abraham Lincoln had just become the standard bearer of the Republican Party with his great speech at the Cooper Union in the city. Lincoln not only became the odds on favorite to lead the party in the coming November elections, but also succeeded in galvanizing the cause for preservation of the Union throughout the city and among most northerners. Woods on the other hand was soundly defeated in the next election. New York's great abundance of good outspoken daily and weekly newspapers such as the *Times*, *Tribune*, *Sun* and *Herald*, and magazines such as *Harper Brother's* with their wonderful artists like Thomas Nast, did much to promote the cause of the Union in the years preceding the war, as well as throughout the long and bitter struggle.

In March 1861 Lincoln became the country's 16th. president, and the following month we became engaged in the terrible Civil War. In April 1861, New York's crack 7th. Regiment left for Washington, and shortly after their departure a mass meeting was held in Union Square pledging loyalty to the Union cause. The famous armor-clad vessel "Monitor," with its innovative revolving gun turret, was built and outfitted by New York's Novelty Iron Works in Jan 1862. . . as was the even more advanced "Keokuk" later in the year.

By 1863 the city had already furnished more than 80,000 men to the Union Army and contributed more than \$300 million to the war effort. The only thing negative about the city's role in the war effort occurred in July 1863, when the "draft riots" were responsible for the deaths of more than one thousand persons, and \$1 million in property damage. The riots were not to protest the war itself, but the conscription system which permitted the payment of a \$300 bounty to buy substitutes to serve in the military forces. Just as it had played a major role in helping the nation

← Lincoln's speech at the Cooper Union galvanized the north in preserving the Union.

← Weekly newspapers such as the *Times*, *Tribune*, *Sun* and *Herald*, and magazines such as *Harper Brother's* (see 55, 92 & 94) did much to promote the Union cause during the Civil War.

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gain it's freedom and maintain it's independence in previous wars, the city had once again played a significant role in the struggle to keep the Union intact. The war ended with the surrender of General Lee on April 9, 1865.

Castle Garden becomes the nation's major immigration depot (see 76) (see also fig. 5-4). →

By 1860 the population had grown to about 813,000 souls. . . by far the largest city in the western hemisphere. The inpouring of foreign immigrants continued to swell the city's ranks, and crowded housing conditions and tenements were growing at an alarming rate. Castle Garden had been converted to an immigrant processing station in 1855 to deal with the rising flood of foreigners coming to make a new life in America. Many were poorly educated and untrained, and while the economy was recovering steadily, many new immigrants were barely capable of making a living wage. . . yet they represented an increasingly larger percentage of the city's population. Conditions prompted the eventual formation of civic and social committees which studied the problem and instituted ways of assisting them in becoming employable and improving the living conditions and sanitation in overcrowded areas in which many of them lived.

Society of St. Tammany (see 92). →

Conditions in the city during the 1860's somehow seemed to breed an increasing amount of corruption and dishonesty among the city's politicians and those entrusted with serving and protecting the public welfare. In 1868, William (Boss) Tweed became Grand Sachem of the Society of St. Tammany, and he soon managed to get complete control over the political machine of Tammany Hall. While he never really held a political office in his entire life, Tweed was responsible for the corruption and manipulation of city politics which resulted in the plundering of more than \$200 million during his reign. The New York City "Tweed" Courthouse took its nickname from the man who had personally profited so handsomely from its construction. Tweed was eventually caught and convicted, and died in jail. Even the power of the seemingly impregnable Tammany political machine was eventually broken. The days of the reign of Tammany Hall marked the darkest period in New York City's political history.

The New York City "Tweed" Courthouse (see 87). →

In 1869 the city suffered another financial crisis. On "Black Friday", September, 4, the stock market crashed, this time wiping out half the value of Wall Street, just four years after the New York Stock Exchange moved into their new building at 10/12 Broad Street.

Brooklyn Bridge (see 93) (see also fig. 5-8 & 5-10) →

During the same period that corrupt politicians were plaguing the city, some exciting things were happening on other fronts. One of the greatest accomplishments of the period was the building of the Brooklyn Bridge. Started in 1869, Mr. Roebling's remarkable bridge spanned the East River to provide the first link for land travel between Manhattan Island and Brooklyn. It took 14 years to complete, and when it was finally opened in 1883, it was celebrated with a massive fireworks display from atop its 276 ft. high towers which could be seen throughout the city.

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THE TIP OF THE ISLAND



← Fig. 5-6 Looking west on Wall Street toward Trinity Church from in front of the Merchants Exchange Building at left. On Black Friday, September 4, 1869, the stock market crashed, wiping out half of Wall Street—perhaps a forewarning of the even greater disaster yet to come in October 1929. (See 101)

Several scientific inventions were introduced during this period which had a profound influence on the lives of all New Yorkers and people throughout the entire world. In 1875 Western Union Telegraph Co. opened its first headquarters in New York, and soon communication by telegraph was available throughout the city and across the land. And in 1877, Alexander Graham Bell introduced his “speaking telephone” to an audience in New York, dramatically changing the course of communications history throughout the world. The Bell Company opened its first exchange at 82 Nassau St. in 1879, and soon New Yorkers were talking to each other across the city by “telephone.” The startling advances being made in “instant

← Western Union Telegraph Co. opened its first headquarters (see 99).

← Alexander Graham Bell introduced his “speaking telephone” to an audience in New York (see 96).

THE SAGA OF LOWER MANHATTAN

communications" soon brought about changes which would forever affect the course of history for all mankind . . . and, as with so many of our country's most important events. . . it all started here on the tip of the island in little old New York.



Fig. 5-7 John Stobart's impressive painting of ships docked along the wharves lining the foot of South Street in 1876 illustrates the canopy formed by the protruding bows of the great ships.

A proliferation of poles and wires were strung everywhere . . . row upon row and layer upon layer (see fig. 5-9). →

The golden age of scientific progress continued, as in 1882 Thomas Edison introduced the country's first electric generating plant at 257 Pearl St. The world was soon introduced to its first commercially available electricity as the new plant began distributing electric power for street lighting and home and business consumption. But all of the progress being made by these scientific marvels being introduced here did not come without a price tag. What had been quiet uncluttered streets were fast becoming what many New Yorkers considered "hideous avenues of confusion." A proliferation of poles and wires were strung everywhere. . . row upon row and layer upon layer. As one looked skyward from the streets the skies appeared as a maze of wires and cables. The elevated railroads, or "Ells" as they became known as, cluttered the streets, as did the horse drawn cart and trolley tracks. Street traffic of vehicles of every size, shape and description became so ensnarled that it more often than not

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THE TIP OF THE ISLAND

moved at a snail's pace and at times came to a complete stop for rather long periods. Taller buildings were beginning to block out the sunshine and harbored the snow and ice during the winter months. As all the symbols of progress were becoming increasingly visible, many New Yorkers were beginning to wonder whether the price might not be a bit more than they were willing to pay. Many of the city's older residents resented the "changes of progress," and those who had the wherewithal were moving to quieter neighborhoods in less developed areas of the city.



Fig. 5-8 The Brooklyn Bridge provided New Yorkers with their first land link between the lower tip of the island and Brooklyn across the East River. The spectacular celebration that was held on its opening in the evening of May 24, 1883 is shown in the scene above. Designed by John Roebling, it remains today as one of the world's most famous and remarkable structures.

By the year 1880, the population of the city had grown to about 1,210,000, of which only about 727,000 were native residents, and the remaining 483,000 were immigrants from around the world. No other place in the annals of world history had routinely absorbed such a high percentage of foreign immigrants into its total population. While most of the immigrants being processed thru Castle Garden were only temporary residents of the city, many stayed to make it their permanent new home. Whether they were to become short or long-term residents depended in part on how successful they were in finding lodging and a job with which to support themselves and their families. Most were destitute on their arrival in the city, which only aggravated the city's fight to improve living conditions for all of the city's poor. While

THE SAGA OF LOWER MANHATTAN

slums were slowly being replaced by tenement houses, the tenements were often of little improvement. The conditions lead to a great deal of human exploitation. Children were being employed along with adults to work in "sweatshops" for meager wages, many of which were operated in the slums and tenements in which they lived to avoid the city's regulation and interference. Many of the workers were as young as eight or nine years old, whose only education was that received by the Children's Aid Society at night. This phenomenon was of course occurring in many of the larger cities across the nation during this period, not just New York. Needless to say, large numbers of children remained illiterate throughout their lives, as did many of their parents. Eventually social outrage brought child labor laws that ended the practice.



Fig. 5-9 This view looking north on Broadway from Maiden Lane shows the maze of unsightly poles and wires that cluttered the city's streets in 1880. The new Western Union building is on the north west corner of Dey Street and Bell Telephone Company had just opened their first exchange on Nassau Street (see 96 & 99).

By the time of map VI (about 1886) the tip of the island was fast becoming less of a place to live, and more of the center of the city's commercial, business and social activities. The population had grown to about 10 million souls, and Manhattan Island was rapidly becoming one of the most densely packed places on earth. In 1874 the

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Fig. 5-10
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THE TIP OF THE ISLAND

city had for the first time extended its boundaries outside the natural boundary of the island itself. Private residences were being replaced by public and commercial buildings, apartments and tenements. And always the buildings seemed to be getting taller. The Tower Building (see 103), built in 1888 was the city's first multi-storied building to be constructed around a steel skeleton, thus ushering in a new age of skyscrapers.

The city's increasing importance as a world class maritime port is evident in the proliferation of docks and piers that now make up the entire shoreline around the city. At the time of the map there was probably a greater concentration of docks and piers to accommodate both domestic and foreign ships and boats than at any other time in the city's history. And 1886 was also the year in which the Statue of Liberty was inaugurated on Bedloe's Island (now Liberty Island). The statue has since become the symbol of freedom known in every land throughout the world.

Thus as the city prepared to enter the 20th. century, it had already established

← *The Tower Building*
(see 103).

← The city's increasing importance as a world class maritime port is evident in the proliferation of docks and piers that now make up the entire shoreline around the city (see fig. 5-10).

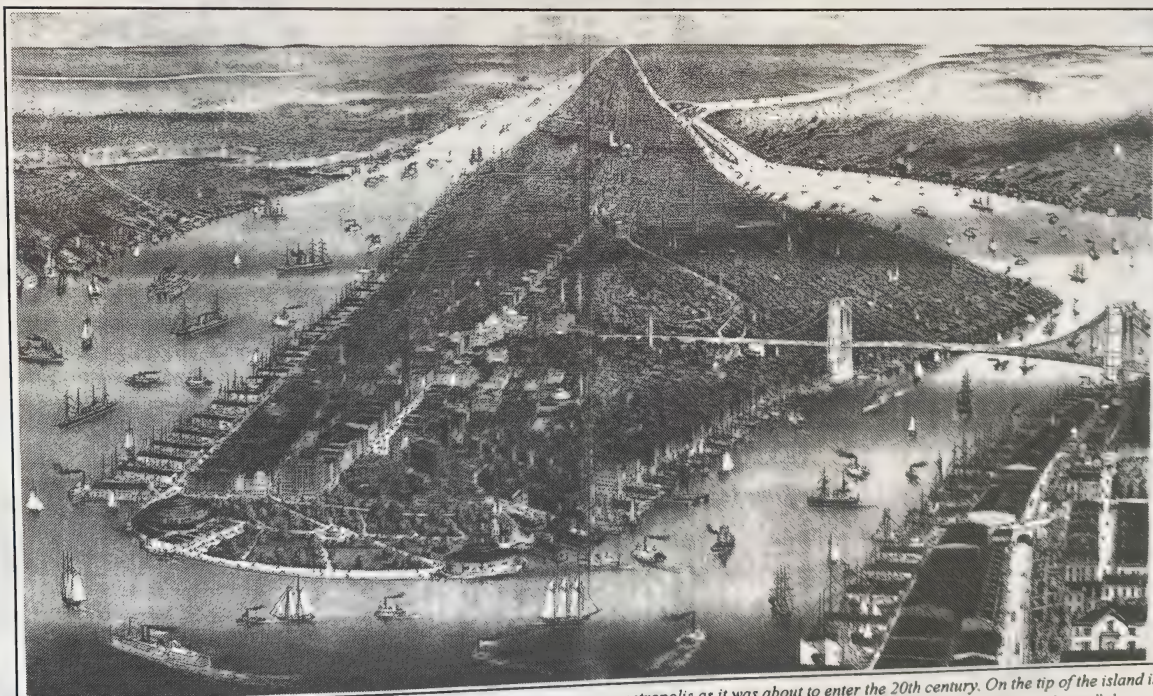


Fig. 5-10 This Currier & Ives view of New York in 1884 shows the vibrant young metropolis as it was about to enter the 20th century. On the tip of the island is Battery Park, with Castle Garden on the left and the U.S. Barge Office on the right. The grand sidewheeler rounding the tip appears to be the "Pilgrim," the new flagship of the old Fall River Line, headed for its home pier up the Hudson River shore. The long row of buildings along the southern edge of the Bowling Green at the foot of Broadway was known as "Steamship Row," and the large Columned building just to the right across Whitehall Street is the Produce Exchange. Trinity Church with its tall spire can be seen a little further up Broadway, as can the City Hall complex and the new Brooklyn Bridge (see 93).

itself as the “golden door” to America, and lead the nation in population, finance and trading, maritime activities, growth and expansion. . . and by almost any other measure was well on its way to becoming the world’s greatest city.

THE SAGA OF LOWER MANHATTAN



CHAPTER SIX

About 1887 to 1987

Immigrants continue to pour in
as the age of the skyscrapers
is ushered in.

Major improvements in transportation
keep pace with the city's growth.

Wall Street crashes
and political corruption returns.

The city survives a fiscal crisis
and retains its world class status.

MAP VII

Lower Manhattan
New York City
A destiny fulfilled



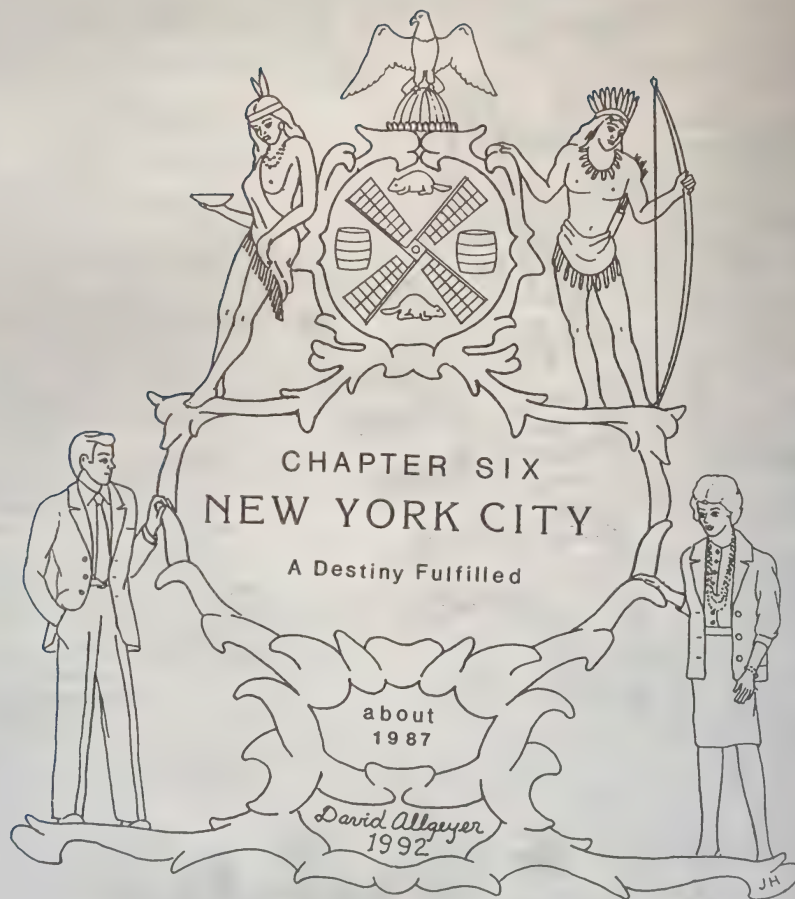
Map VII.

Places of interest and locations

1. BC-U.S. Custom House
3. BC-The Bowling Green
5. BC-No. 1 Broadway
6. BC-No. 9 & 11 Broadway
37. BC-Staten Island Ferry Dock
38. BC-Fraunces Tavern
41. MC-Federal Hall National Monument
47. MC-Trinity Church
48. MC-The Trinity Building
51. TC-City Hall Park
55. TC-N.Y. Times Bldg. - Pace Univ.
57. TC-St. Paul's Chapel
63. MC-Wesley Chapel - John St. Church
74. BC-Battery Park
76. BC-Castle Clinton Nat'l Monument
77. MC-Citibank
78. MC-Bank of New York
79. MC-Manufacturer's Hanover Trust
80. MC-Seamen's Bank for Savings
83. TC-Western Electric Building
84. TC-Park Row (Syndicate) Building
85. TC-The Transportation Building
86. TC-City Hall
87. TC-N.Y. City "Tweed" Courthouse
88. TC-Hall of Records Bldg.
90. TC-St. Peter's Catholic Church
92. TC-New York Sun Building
93. TR-Brooklyn Bridge & approaches
99. TC-American Telephone & Telegraph
100. MC-Equitable Building
101. MC-New York Stock Exchange
102. MC-Morgan Guaranty Trust Company
104. MC-Cunard Building
- U.S. Postal Service
105. MC-India House
106. TR-St. James Church
107. TC-Municipal Bldg. & Civic Center
108. TC-Woolworth Building
109. ML-World Trade Center
110. ML-World Financial Center
- Battery Park City
111. BC-Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel Ent.
112. ML-American Stock Exchange
113. MC-Singer Building
- One Liberty Plaza (US Steel)
114. MC-Marine Midland Bank
115. MC-Federal Reserve Bank
116. MC-Chase Manhattan Bank / Plaza
117. MC-Irving Trust Building
118. MC-United States Assay Office
119. MR-South St. Seaport Hist. Dist.
120. MC-72 Wall St. - UniDynamics



THE SAGA OF LOWER MANHATTAN



As the population increased, immigrants from all over the world came to New York City. The Statue of Liberty stood high the tide of children from all over the world. The dynamic and oppressive nature of the city was evident.

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THE TIP OF THE ISLAND

CHAPTER SIX About 1887 to 1987

As the city approached the 20th. Century the pace of change had quickened, the population was soaring and ground space on the tip of the island was becoming increasingly scarce. By 1890 the population had risen to almost 1½ million souls, and immigrants continued to pour in thru the golden door to America at Castle Garden. The Statue of Liberty, which had just been dedicated on Bedloe's Island in 1886, held high the torch of liberty, welcoming the incoming ships filled with men, women and children from around the world who yearned to make a place for themselves in our dynamic young nation of opportunity for all and freedom from religious and political oppression.

In order to cope with the rapidly dwindling ground space, new and taller buildings were being constructed to replace older ones and wherever space could be found. In 1888, the first steel skeleton building in New York, the Tower Building, was erected at 50 Broadway, signifying the start of the age of the skyscrapers.

By the late 1800's New Yorkers were already enjoying many of the modern conveniences not yet readily available to the rest of the country. Alexander Graham Bell's telephones were used throughout the city, and mass-transit systems were becoming an increasingly popular means of travel, as the old horse drawn trolleys and elevated trains were being replaced by ones powered by new more efficient electric motors and steam engines. Also the readily available supply of electricity and gas brought lighting and heat to homes and public buildings, and the availability of an ample supply of good water brought indoor plumbing and a network of sewer and sanitation systems throughout the city. In 1883 the Brooklyn Bridge was opened, and in 1886 the elevated rail service was extended to the Bronx.

While New Yorkers of the times were fortunate in living in what was probably the most progressive city on earth, there were many negative factors as well, particularly related to the growing maze of poles and wires and elevated rails and tracks that cluttered many of the city's main thoroughfares, and the crowded and substandard living conditions resulting from the constant influx of the hordes of foreign immigrants pouring into the city. In 1886 the city began laying its first underground conduits in compliance with a law that had been passed in 1884 requiring all telephone, telegraph and electric wires to be removed from the streets. But it was not until after the great blizzard which hit the city in 1888 collapsed many of the poles and wires which cluttered the streets that the city stepped up its removal

← Castle Garden (see 76)

← Tower Building
(see 103)

← Alexander Graham
Bell's telephones were used
throughout the city (see 96)

← Mass transit systems
were becoming an
increasingly popular means
of travel (see fig. 6-1)

← Brooklyn Bridge
(see 93)

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effort's, and within a few years most of them were gone. Also the problem of crowding immigrants into the city was addressed when the federal government took over the Immigration Service in 1890. New Yorkers were influential in convincing the government that they should not be brought directly to Manhattan Island as they had always been, but rather to be processed on an offshore island. In 1892 Ellis Island became the main receiving station for processing immigrants on the eastern seaboard.



Fig. 6-1 Looking west on Wall Street in the 1890's. In foreground at left is an American Express wagon. An El train passes on Pearl Street in the distance (see 98).

In the early 1900's several new bridges were built further linking Manhattan Island with the surrounding area. The Williamsburg Bridge was opened in 1903, further improving the accessibility of North Brooklyn to the city's lower east side. And in 1909 the Manhattan Bridge was opened just above the Brooklyn Bridge, providing even further access to Brooklyn. Further up the island the Queensboro Bridge was also opened in 1909, linking Manhattan to Queens.

In 1898 Greater New York City was created by the joining of the five boroughs of Manhattan, Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island, with a combined population of about 3 1/2 million. . .second to London's 4 million as the world's largest city at that time. It was governed by a mayor, five borough presidents and a board of

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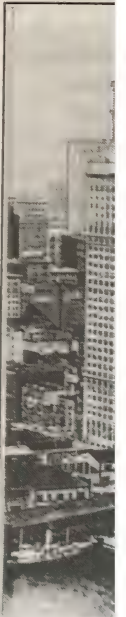


Fig. 6-2 Battery Park and the Hudson River, extreme left back

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THE TIP OF THE ISLAND

board of 65 aldermen. The city was now poised to embark on the greatest period of building and expansion in history government buildings, private and commercial buildings, bridges, tunnels, utilities, subways, transportation facilities, shops, factories and stores, and on and on and on. New buildings were springing up everywhere, and each one taller than the last, especially on the tip of the island. And with each new "skyscraper" such as the Singer Building, the Woolworth Building, the Equitable Building, and the AT&T Building, a little less sunlight reached the ground. The streets were becoming a network of deep canyons winding through towering cliffs of glass and granite, often dark and dreary, cut off from the enlightened sky above. Concern over the evolving conditions brought about the eventual passage of more restrictive building codes, such as the "setback" requirements enacted in the "Zoning Resolution of 1916" (see Equitable Bldg. 100).

← New buildings were springing up everywhere, each one taller than the last. (see 99, 100, 108, & 113) (also see fig. 6-2)



Fig. 6-2 Battery Park and the Aquarium in 1922, with the huge U.S. Custom House just back to the right across the El train tracks. The tallest building in the extreme left background was the Woolworth Building - then the world's tallest.

Further improvements were made in ridding the streets of the clutter of tracks and elevated trains and at the same time significantly improving the comfort and efficiency of ground transportation with the start of construction of the city's now famous subway systems in 1900. In 1904 the IRT subway linked City Hall and what is now the Civic Center to as far north as 154th. street. And by 1908, the East River subway tunnel linked Manhattan and Brooklyn, and the McAdoo Tunnel under the Hudson linked Manhattan with Hoboken N.J. Now, with both transit systems and

← Civic Center (see 107)

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all wires and cables underground, the city was as best prepared as it could be for the next phenomenon to hit its streets, the automobile.

As the financial capital of the nation, New Yorkers perhaps more than most other Americans felt the devastating impact of the worst financial disaster in our nations history, the stock market crash of 1929. Indications of the looming disaster were being felt on Wall Street in September of 1929. The wonderful prosperity which the country enjoyed following World War I (1914-1918) through the roaring '20's was grinding to a halt. But the speculative investors on Wall St. chose to ignore the warning signs that the economy was headed for serious trouble and continued to push the market to new heights, even thru early September. A reactionary slide started in September and continued into October, culminating with "black Thursday" on Oct. 24, 1929. The prices of the 13 million shares sold on that day dropped faster than at any other time in the history of the exchange and by the closing bell two-thirds of the value of all the securities listed had been wiped out. Hundreds of stunned investors crowded Wall St. in total disbelief of what had happened. Many formerly wealthy individuals had become virtually penniless, some even resorted to suicide.

During the early to mid 1900's the city government had again endured some periods of corruption. Among the more flamboyant and publicized politicians was Mayor James J. (Jimmy) Walker who was backed by the Tammany Hall machine. Walker resigned in 1932 after being summoned to appear before Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt on graft charges. Fortunately for the city, there were also political leaders during the early and mid 1900's that were honest and capable, and quite effective in instituting administrative reforms. The colorful and high-living Walker was replaced by Fiorello La Guardia, who was elected Mayor in 1933. La Guardia was credited with unifying the city's transportation system and bringing it under municipal operation, and supporting the construction of new streets, bridges and tunnels to improve the flow of traffic throughout the city, also the construction of schools, hospitals and public housing.

During both World Wars I (1914-1918) and II (1941-1945) the Port of New York served as the major military port of embarkation and debarkation on the eastern seaboard. Tens of thousands of military personnel passed thru the city during the times of crisis, and millions of tons of weapons and materials were loaded on vessels for destinations across the Atlantic. The taste of war was brought a little closer to home for New Yorkers than for most Americans, when in 1945 an Army bomber crashed into the Empire State Building, and again in 1946 when another Army plane crashed into the 58th. floor of the Bank of Manhattan. Fortunately, while the ensuing years have brought a dense clustering of skyscrapers to the little tip of the island, there have been few incidents of aircraft crashing into the giant buildings. The importance of the city in world affairs was again acknowledged when in 1946 the United Nations selected New York as the site of its permanent headquarters . . . home of the only international organization dedicated to world peace and the resolution of international conflicts.

*Tammany Hall machine
(see 92) →*

*Bank of Manhattan
(see 79) →*

*United Nations selects New
York as home. →*

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THE TIP OF THE ISLAND

While the population of Greater New York City had more than doubled during the first half of the 20th. Century, it reached its peak of about eight million souls in 1950. The phenomenal growth was greater than that of most entire states, and it imposed many challenges on the already densely populated city. The total population had become almost irrelevant to the number of people actually living in the lower tip of Manhattan Island. Many affluent and even middle class residents had been moving out of the area since the late 1800's, opting to live in the quieter, less crowded sections of the city and in the surrounding suburbs. The opening of Ellis Island in 1892 by the Immigration Service helped control the foreign influx into the city, and by 1960 the number of foreign born represented only 20% of the city's total population, down considerably from the 40% just 80 years earlier. Still, the diversity of nationalities residing in Manhattan was unmatched by any other place in the world, with the highest percentage continuing to be English and German speaking, just as it had been in colonial times, followed by those from countries speaking Italian and Spanish.

The continued application of most of the real estate on the tip of the island thru the mid 1900's to skyscrapers and commercial and service usage contributed to the decline in population of the area and was creating two classes of those who chose to continue to live there. . . the very rich and the very poor. Those who could afford it lived in high rent apartments or other expensive housing units, while the poorer class lived in low-income and slum units. This period also saw a substantial increase in the number of poor blacks and Puerto Ricans moving into the city. By early 1970's the city was experiencing increasing financial difficulties, as the rising cost of municipal services and other expenditures began outpacing revenues. Between 1965 and 1975 the city's expenses had been increasing at the rate of about 12% annually, while tax revenues were only increasing about 4% a year. By 1975 it found itself in virtual bankruptcy, unable to pay its debt obligations which had grown from about \$5 billion to over \$12 billion during that same period. Then Mayor Abraham Beame ordered drastic cuts in city expenses and appealed for federal aid. President Gerald R. Ford sent Congress legislation for short-term aid for three years which was quickly passed to get them thru the crisis. Once again, as it had so often done in the past, the city managed to survive a potentially devastating situation. It is interesting to note that the cost of the city's welfare and medical assistance programs alone in 1975 were about \$1 billion annually. . . far greater than that of any other city in the nation.

As was true for most all of us who have been living thru a big part of this 20th. Century, those who lived on the tip of the island have seen both good times and bad, and somehow always seemed to make the best of it. Much had changed in the city, and somehow always seemed to make the best of it. Much had changed in the city, and not always for the better. Yet the city of today remains one of the most exciting and vibrant places on earth! Many of the problems that resulted from the city's earlier growth and progress have been corrected, and new and stringent rules and regulations have been enacted to protect the city's future best interest. Along with every other major city in the country, the automobile age has brought major traffic problems to the area. But all things considered, New Yorkers still manage to get around quite

← The phenomenal growth of the city was greater than that of most entire state's, and skyscrapers competed for record heights (see 100, 108 & 113) (see also figs. 6-3 & 6-4).

← By 1975 the city found itself in virtual bankruptcy, but once again manages to survive a major crisis.

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Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel
(see 111) →

Battery Park City
(see 110) →

nicely, relying of course on cabs and public transportation for most of their travel in the area of the map. FDR Drive and the West Beltway provide rapid travel around the perimeter of the island's tip and to piers for ferry travel to Brooklyn, New Jersey, and Staten and other islands. The Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel connects Battery Park with the Gowanus Parkway, and when opened in 1950 was the longest underwater tunnel in the country. There have even been efforts to lure New Yorkers back to living on the tip of the island. Apartments, mostly for the more affluent city dwellers, have been of some success in reestablishing the area as a convenient and enjoyable place to live. New developments such as the impressive Battery Park City are enticing New Yorkers to return to their roots, and live right down on the tip of the island in the heart of the old city.



Fig. 6-3 The building with the pyramidal top just left of center is the Bankers Trust, with the big Equitable Building just behind it. At the time of this photo in 1921 they were among the city's tallest buildings, mostly located to the west of them and including the northernmost tallest white looking tower of the world's tallest Woolworth Building. All of this was about to change in the building boom of the 1920's which was to establish the city as having the world's most famous and magnificent skyline forevermore.

World Trade Center
(see 109) →

Map VII clearly shows the extent to which the western shoreline has been extended into the Hudson River. Battery Park City and the World Financial Center alone have added about 92 acres to the area, almost double the size of the original town of New Amsterdam below the fortified wall (as shown on maps I and II). Also development of the impressive World Trade Center just east of the Financial Center, significantly changed the topography of that area. The South Street Seaport Museum

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area at the foot of Fulton at South St. on the eastern shore, has not only added new places of historical interest and other activities, but restored many of the old structures formerly involved in maritime activities. And the area around Foley Square just northeast of the City Hall has been developed into the city's Civic Center with magnificent buildings which, along with City Hall and the Courthouse serve the city's civic needs.

- ← South Street Seaport Museum (see 119)
- ← Civic Center (see 107)
- ← City Hall (see 86)
- ← Courthouse (see 87)



Fig. 6-4 This 1932 photo was taken only 11 years after the one on the facing page and shows the proliferation of new and taller skyscrapers which now dwarf and almost obscure the Bankers Trust Building which can only be seen as a pyramidal shadow in the center of the picture. The area of low buildings just beyond the tall white looking structure on West Street just below the middle left of the picture was destined to become the World Trade Center with its soaring Twin Towers, and the row of docks across West Street would be replaced by landfill and become Battery Park City and the World Financial Center.

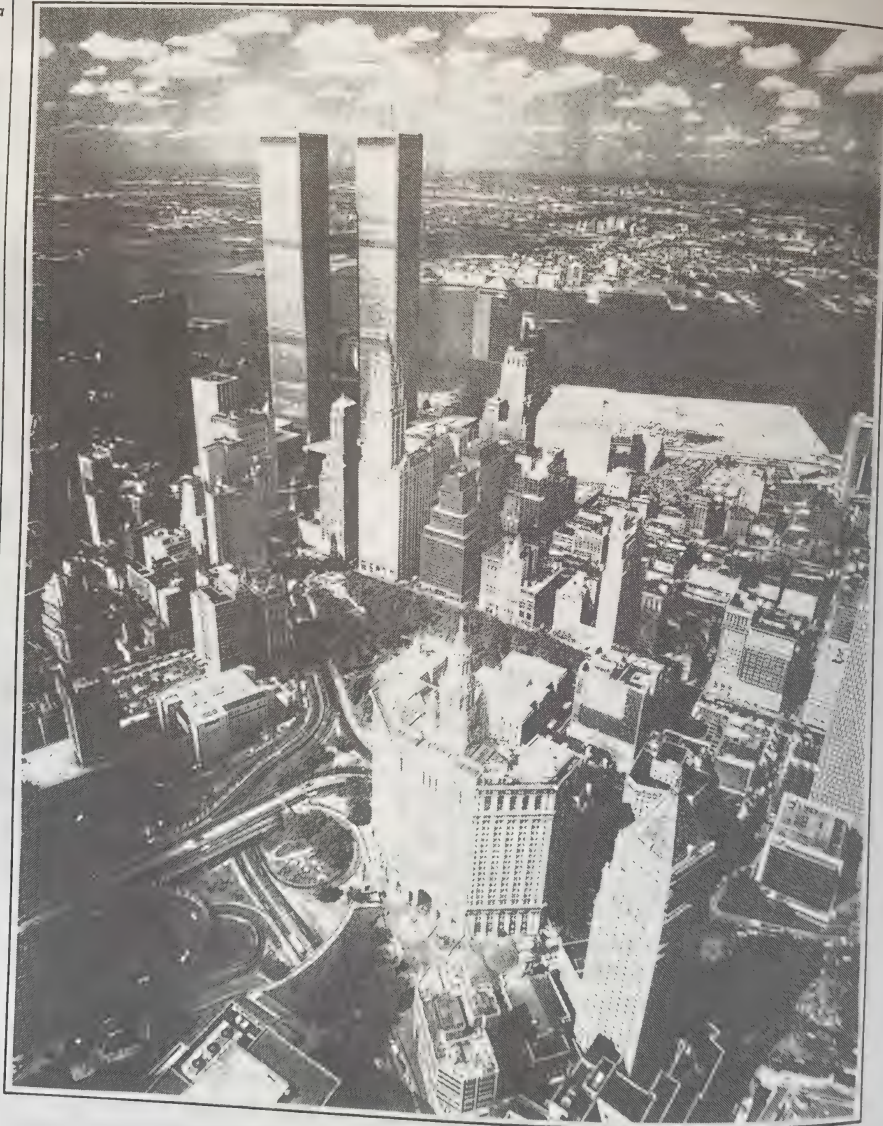
What Map VII does not and cannot show is the vertical topography of the area, the soaring skyscrapers which completely dominate the landscape. The tip of the island has literally become almost as tall as it was wide when the first settlers found it some 300 years ago. The distance across the land just inside the fortified wall (Wall Street) on the 1660 maps (Maps I & II) was roughly 1800 ft. from the shoreline of the East River to the banks of the North River (Hudson). The extraordinary Twin Towers of the World Trade Center shown on the western side of Map VII soar 1350 ft. above the streets, and if laid flat across the original settlement of 1660, would come within just a few hundred feet of reaching from shore to shore!

Probably no other piece of real estate in the world has undergone the dramatic changes as has the little tip of the island. No longer the beautiful woodlands as when

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it was home to the Mohegan Indians . . . no longer the pristine home of all manner of game and a wide variety of wild life as it was when Adriaen Block and his crew of the "Tyger" first wintered here in 1613. . . and no longer the quaint little seaport town as in the days of Peter Stuyvesant and the old Dutch settlers back in the mid 1600's . . .

Fig. 6-5 View of the area around the Brooklyn Bridge approaches, City Hall Park, and the Civic Center in 1987. The soaring Towers of the World Trade Center easily dwarf the once world's tallest Woolworth Building (the white looking building in front of the right tower on Broadway). →



time and m
glass and c



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time and man have altered the area's landscape into an urban colossus of stone and glass and concrete and steel, in which a million people scurry about in an endless



Fig. 6-6 The jewel of the night--the city that never sleeps--New York, New York!

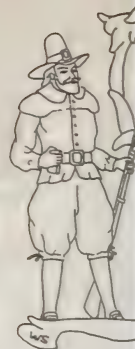
THE SAGA OF LOWER MANHATTAN

frenzy of activity.

The tiny settlement of "New Amsterdam, in the Province of New Netherland" has, through a continual state of metamorphosis, evolved into our greatest metropolis. . . the City of New York in the United States of America, and her trials and tribulations have become almost synonymous with that of the history of our great nation. Now, as we are about to enter the 21st. Century, one can't help but wonder what challenges and opportunities the future holds in store for her. . . and for us. It is reassuring to know that little in her rich and colorful past ever came easy for her, yet somehow she always managed to come out on top. . . and God willing, she always will. . . because without her America just wouldn't be America!

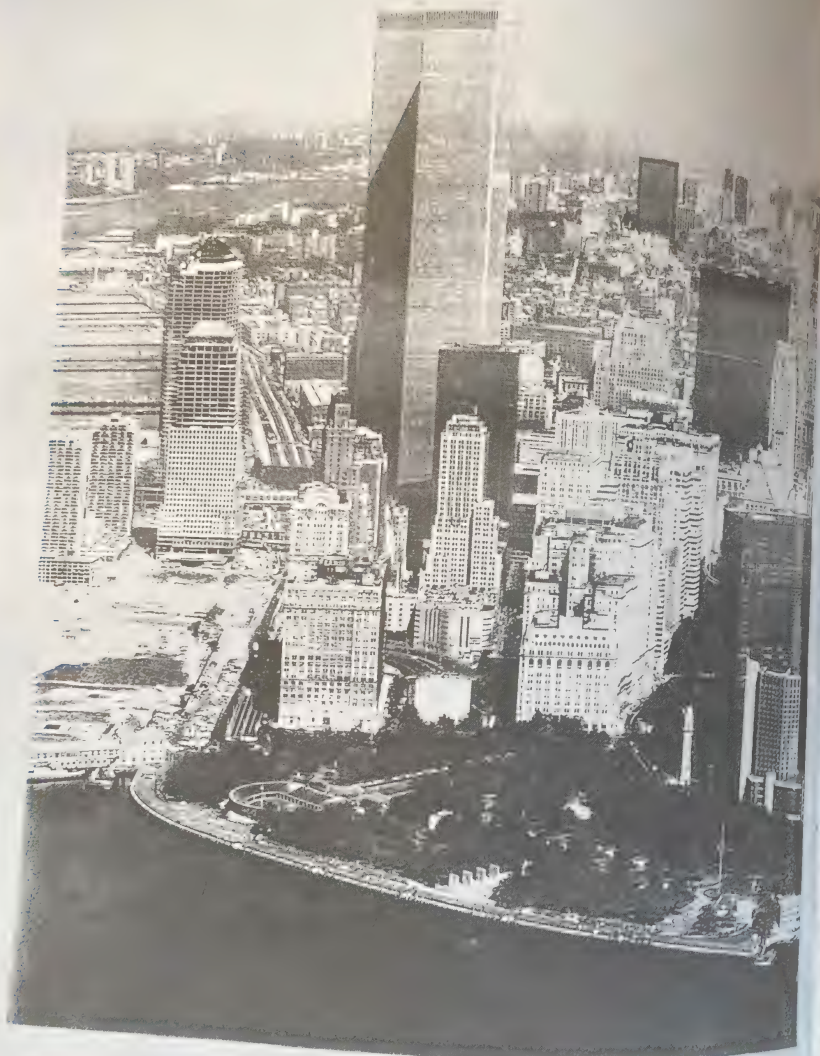


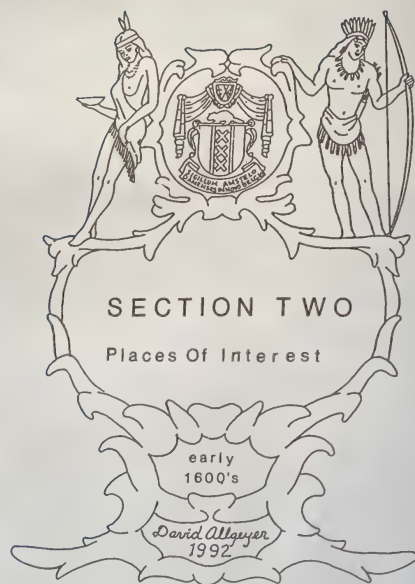
Fig. 6-7 This beautiful view of Manhattan in all its current grandeur makes it difficult to believe it all started as a tiny Dutch settlement in a remote wilderness on the tip of the island.



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SECTION TWO

COMPLETE
NUMERICAL INDEX
and OUTLINES of
PLACE OF INTEREST

The following Section contains a complete index of Places of Interest, followed by a brief outline of each of the 120 places listed numerically on the maps. It also gives the map number followed by the general location guide letters for each place on each map.

Each of the maps I thru VII will also have an individual numerical listing of the appropriate Places of Interest which are shown on that specific map, on the pages just preceding the map. Reference to information on all Places of Interest must be made back to the following section of outlines.

The page just preceding Section One contains a guide to help in finding the general area of location of Places of Interest on the maps. It should be familiarized before trying to find them on the maps.

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NUMERICAL INDEX - PLACES OF INTEREST

1. 1-MC 2-BC Fort Manhattan
1. 1-MC 2, 3, 4-BC Fort Amsterdam - later called Fort George
1. 4-BC Government House
1. 5&6-BC Nobs' Row - then Steamship Row
1. 7-BC United States Custom House
2. 1-ML & 2-BC The Grain Mill - Windmill
3. 1-MC 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7-BC The Bowling Green
4. 1-ML & 2-BC Lodowick Pos's Tavern
5. 1-ML 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7-BC No. 1 Broadway
6. 1-ML 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7-BC No. 9 & 11 Broadway
7. 1-ML & 2-MC Jan Stevenson - Schoolmaster
8. 1-ML & 2-MC The Old Churchyard and Dominie's Home
9. 1-TL & 2-MC Site of Adrian Block's Huts
10. 1-TL & 2-MC West India Company's Garden
11. 1-TL, TC & TR & 2-TC The Palisade or Fortified Wall
12. 1-TR & 2-MC The "Half Moon" Battery
13. 1-TC & 2-MC The Schaapen Weytie (sheep pasture)
14. 1-MC & 2-MC The Heere Graft (common ditch)
15. 1-MC & 2-BC O. S. Van Cortlandt Residence and Brewery
16. 1-MC & 2-BC Adam Roelantsen - First Schoolmaster
17. 1-MC & 2-BC White Horse (or Wooden Horse) Tavern
18. 1-MC & 2-BC Dutch West India Co.'s Operational Facilities
19. 1-MC & 2-BC Dutch West India Co.'s Operational Facilities
20. 1-MC & 2-BC Dutch West India Co.'s Operational Facilities
21. 1-MC & 2-BC Dominie Evardus Bogardus - First Clergyman
22. 1-MC & 2-BC Jacques Cortelyou - Surveyor's Office
23. 1 & 2-BC Schreyer's (or Schreijer's) Hook
24. 1 & 2-BC Whitehall (the Governor's Mansion)
25. 1-MC & 2-BC First Dutch Reformed Church
26. 1-MR & 2-BC The Stadt Huys (City Hall)
27. 1, 2 & 3-MC First Jewish Synagogue

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28. 1 & 2-MC Old Bark Mill
29. 1-TR & 2-MC Burger Jorissen's Estate
30. 1-MC & 2, 3 & 4-BC The Merchant's Exchange
31. 1-TC & 2-MC Goovert Lookerman Residence (later Captain Kidd's)
32. 3, 4 & 5-BC Fish Market at Coenties Slip
33. 3, 4 & 5-MC Old Slip Market
- 33A. 5-MC The Franklin Market
34. 3 & 4-MC Meat Market and Slave Market
- later Coffee House Slip and Merchant's Coffee House
35. 3 & 4-MC The Fly Market
36. 3-MC William Bradford - First Printer
37. 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7-BC Staten Island Ferry Dock
38. 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7-BC Fraunces Tavern
39. 3, 4 & 5-MC South Dutch Reformed (Garden St.) Church & School
40. 3-MC Bayard's Sugar House
41. 3 & 4-MC City Hall - then Federal Hall
41. 5-MC United States Custom House
41. 6 & 7-MC U.S. Sub-Treasury - then Federal Hall Nat. Monument
42. 3, 4 & 5-MC French Huguenot Church
43. 3, 4 & 5-MC New Dutch Reformed Church (Middle Dutch Church)
44. 3 & 4-MC Quaker (Friends) Meeting House and Graveyard
45. 3, 4 & 5-MC First Presbyterian Church
46. 3 & 4-MC Lutheran Church
46. 5-MC Grace Church
47. 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7-MC Trinity Church
48. 3 & 4-MC De Lancey Mansion - later City Arms and Burns Tavern
48. 5-MC The City Hotel
48. 6 & 7-MC Various Stores - then The Trinity Building
49. 3 & 4-ML Mesier's Windmill
50. 4-TC Tea Water Pump at the Fresh Water (Collect) Pond
51. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7-TC The Common - then City Hall Park
52. 2-TC Windmill on the Common
53. 4-TL-TC Ranelagh Gardens

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54. 4, 5 & 6-TC Rhinelander Sugar House
55. 4 & 5-TC Brick Presbyterian Church
55. 6 & 7-TC New York Times Building - now owned by Pace University
56. 4 & 5-TL King's College - now Columbia University
57. 4, 5, 6 & 7-TC St. Paul's Chapel
58. 4-MC The Oswego Market
59. 4 & 5-MC Scotch Presbyterian Church
60. 4 & 5-MC Livingston Sugar House
61. 4-MC Rutgers' Brew House
62. 4-MC Nassau Street Theatre
62. 4-MC First German Reformed Dutch Church
63. 4, 5, 6 & 7-MC Wesley Chapel - John Street Methodist Church
64. 4-MC The John Street Theatre
65. 4 & 5-TC Moravian Church
66. 4 & 5-TC North Dutch Church
67. 4 & 5-TR First Presidential Mansion - Franklin House
St. George's (later Franklin) Square
68. 4-TC Distillhouses
69. 4 & 5-TC St. George's Chapel
- 70A. 4 & 5-MC The Buttonwood Tree
- 70B. 4 & 5-MC Tontine Coffee House
71. 4-MC Simmon's Tavern
72. 4-MC English Free School
73. 4-MC Second Presidential Mansion - McComb House
74. 4, 5, 6 & 7-BC Battery Park
75. 4 & 5-TR Walton House
76. 5, 6, & 7-BC Castle Clinton - later Castle Garden, New York Aquarium, now Castle
Clinton National Monument
77. 5, 6 & 7-MC Merchants Exchange - later Custom House now Citibank
78. 5, 6 & 7-MC Bank of Manhattan - nation's oldest Bank
79. 5 & 6-MC The Manhattan Company
79. 7-MC Bank of Manhattan - then Manufacturer's Hanover Trust

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80. 5 & 6-MC U.S. Sub-Treasury - then U.S. Assay Office
80. 7-MC Seamen's Bank for Savings
81. 5-MC New York's First Public Library
82. 5-TC Shakespeare Hotel
83. 5 & 6-TC Scudder's American Museum - then Barnum's American Museum
83. 7-TC New York Herald Building - then Western Electric Building
84. 5-TC Park Theatre
84. 7-TC Park Row (Syndicate) Building
85. 5 & 6-TC Astor House Hotel
85. 7-TC The Transportation Building
86. 5, 6 & 7-TC City Hall
87. 5-TC Almshouse
87. 6 & 7-TC New York City "Tweed" Court House
88. 5 & 6-TC Manhattan Company Reservoir
88. 7-TC Surrogate's Court / Hall of Records Building
89. 5-TL Third Associated Reformed Scotch Presbyterian Church
90. 5, 6 & 7-TC St. Peter's Catholic Church
91. 5-MC Thomas Jefferson's Residence
92. 5-TC Tammany Hall Building
92. 6 & 7-TC New York Sun Building
93. 6 & 7-TC-TR Brooklyn Bridge (and approaches)
94. 6-TC Printing House Square - Newspaper Row
95. 6-TC Currier and Ives
96. 6-TC First Bell Telephone Exchange
97. 6-TC United States Post Office
98. 6-TL American Express Company's First Office
99. 5-TC Franklin House Hotel
99. 6-TC Western Union Building
99. 7-TC American Telephone & Telegraph (AT&T) Building
100. 6 & 7-MC Equitable Building
101. 6 & 7-MC New York Stock Exchange
102. 6 & 7-MC Morgan Guaranty Trust Company
103. 6-MC Tower Building
104. 5-MC Delmonico's Restaurant (the original)

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104. 6-MC Delmonico's Hotel and Restaurant
104. 7-MC Cunard Building - then U.S. Postal Service
105. 6 & 7-MC India House
106. 6 & 7-TR St. James Church
107. 7-TC Municipal Building and Civic Center
108. 7-TC Woolworth Building
109. 7-ML-TL World Trade Center
110. 7-ML World Financial Center and Battery Park City
111. 7-BC Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel Entrance
112. 7-ML-MC American Stock Exchange
113. 7-MC Singer Building - then One Library Plaza (U.S. Steel)
114. 7-MC Marine Midland Bank
115. 7-MC Federal Reserve Bank
116. 7-MC Chase Manhattan Bank / Plaza
117. 7-MC Irving Trust Building
118. 7-MC United States Assay Office
119. 7-MR-TR South Street Seaport Historical District
120. 7-MC 72 Wall Street - UniDynamics Corporation

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1. **Fort Manhattan**
1614-1621 map 1 - MC map 2 - BC

On this site in 1614 the Dutch East India Co. established a crude little stockade for the temporary shelter of the ships crews who were engaged in fur trading activities with the Algonkian and Iroquois Indians here. They operated as a trade association under a temporary four-year charter as the United New Netherland Co., and had chosen this site at the mouth of the Hudson River for its natural harbor and the easy access it afforded to an inland supply of furs and timber. The post became known as Fort Manhattan, and for a period of about ten years remained virtually undeveloped and of a strictly temporary nature, to be abandoned when it ceased to be profitable.

1. **Fort Amsterdam - later known as Fort George**
1626-1789 map 1 - MC maps 2,3 & 4 - BC

The fur trading activities which they started with the Indians in 1614 became a very lucrative and promising venture. In 1621 the Dutch government moved to expand the enterprise and chartered a new western counterpart to the East India Co. known as the Dutch West India Co. In 1624 the company brought eight artisans and farmers over to Governors Island to establish a more permanent Dutch colony in the area to protect their trading interests with the Indians. In the spring of 1625 they were joined by six more Dutch families, and relocated to the site of the old Fort Manhattan trading post on the southern tip of Manhattan Island. Here they proceeded to erect crude shelters, and in 1626 a simple stockade to protect them from the Indians. They called it Fort Amsterdam after their beloved native city in Holland, and the settlement became known as "Nieuw Amsterdam, in the province of Nieuw Nederlandt." Cryn Fredericksz, a surveyor, had laid out the plan for a fort in 1625, but it wasn't completed until 1638, and even then the four walls between the bastions were only banks of earth.

Fort Amsterdam not only served as a depot for shipping and receiving goods going in and out of the area, but also as the seat of government and all military activities on the island. As the population grew in the ensuing years the fort was improved and strengthened. In 1664, the British gained control of the fort and it became known as Fort James. It was recaptured by the Dutch in 1673, and became Fort William Hendrick. The British in turn recaptured it in 1674 and called it Fort James again. In 1702 it became Fort Anne, and later Fort George in 1714.

The structures within the fort are as follows;

A. **Governors house.**

The residence of the Governing Director until Peter Stuyvesant tired of the dust and clamor within the fort, and in 1657 had a mansion built on the sharp curve in the shoreline just east of the fort known as "Schreyer's Hook" (see 24).

B. **Church in the fort.**

In 1642 the Dutch Reformed Church of New Amsterdam who had been holding services in a little wooden chapel (see 25), moved into their new stone building inside the fort. Known as the Church of Saint Nicholas after the figurehead of the first immigrant ship to

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reach New Amsterdam and the patron saint of the town, it was the first substantial church edifice on the island of Manhattan. The fact that the church shared a coveted spot alongside the Governors house within the protected confines of the fort indicates the almost equal power shared by the government and church at that time.

- C. The soldiers barracks.
- D. Provincial Secretary's office and officers quarters.

The fort was demolished in 1789 to prepare a site for George Washington's presidential mansion, but it will always be remembered as the place New York City got its start, and for the role it played in the early settlement of our country.

1. **Government House**
1789-1815 map 4 - BC (Fort Amsterdam site)

On the hope that New York would become the nation's first capital city, a building was erected on the site of the old fort which was intended to serve as the residence of our nation's first President George Washington. However Washington declined New York's Governor Clinton's offer to be housed as a guest of the state, preferring instead to rent one of the finer private residences which were available to him (see 67). Government house then served only as a mansion for the states governors until the state capital was moved to Albany in 1796. The mansion then became a hotel, the Elysian Boarding House. About 1812 it was used as a custom house, until it was destroyed by fire in 1815.

1. **Nobs' Row . . . then Steamship Row**
1815-1892 maps five & 6 - BC

This became the site of a row of elegant three-story brick residences which became known as Nobs' Row. However, later in this period steamship companies began crowding into the area and the neighborhood's residents gradually moved uptown. The area then became known as Steamship Row, and it marked the beginning of what was to become a permanent change from a very fashionable residential neighborhood to one of business and commercial buildings. By the late 1800's all of the principal shipping companies had offices in the area.

In 1892 the U.S. Treasury bought and cleared this site to make room for their new Custom House.

1. **U.S. Custom House**
1892-present map 7 - BC

The U.S. Treasury held a competition for a design for a new Custom House to be built on this site. The design was to symbolize the preeminence of the city as a major seaport and hub of international trade activity. The competition was won and the design was made by the internationally renowned architect Cass Gilbert, who also designed among other famous buildings

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the Woolworth Building (see 108). Gilbert commissioned Daniel Chester French to do the four immense statues of "The Four Continents" representing Asia, America, Europe and Africa . . . known for his sculpture of "The Minute Man" in Concord, Mass., and Abraham Lincoln seated in the Lincoln memorial in Washington, D.C.. The U.S. Custom house ranks as one of the truly great buildings of our nation.

In 1973 the U.S. Customs Service moved to the World Trade Center.

2. **The Grain Mill - Windmill**
about 1635-1680 map 1 - ML map 2 - BC

As in their native homeland, the early Dutch settlers built huge windmills for grinding corn and grain, and to be used for power in sawing timber. Windmills played an important part in their daily lives, not just for their utilitarian value, but also as a social gathering place . . . and a comforting reminder of their dearly departed homeland. Windmills were the early "skyscrapers," dotting the Manhattan landscape from the time of the first settlers until the last ones disappeared in the late 1800s (see 28, 49 and 52).

The old windmill at this site near the fort was one of the very first public mills here on the tip of the island, and also served as a landmark for ships captains entering the upper harbor.

3. **The Bowling green**
about 1640-present map 1 MC maps 2 thru 7 BC

During the early Dutch colonial period this area just north of the fort at the foot of De Heere Straat (The Broad Way) served as the "Markvel" . . . the marketplace were the local citizenry, soldiers and others from across the North and East rivers met to trade produce and other commodities. The flat and level ground also served nicely as a playing field for the Dutchman's favorite sport of ninepins. It was here that the Dutch first introduced the game to the new world. After the British took over the fort in 1664 the area was also used as a parade grounds, and for a time was known as "The Plaine" and "The Parade." Yet throughout the years the spot continued to be cherished by the Dutch as their "Bowling Green," a place best suited for their favorite sport and for socializing with their friends and neighbors.

In 1733 the Common Council voted to lease the ground to some of the town's inhabitants "in order to be inclosed to make a Bowling Green thereof with walks therein, for the beauty and ornament of the said street as well as for the recreation and delight of the inhabitants of this city" . . . thus it became the first public park in New York City, and one of the very first in the colonies.

In 1766 the Assembly erected an equestrian statue of King George III in the center of the park to inspire and encourage a stronger allegiance to the King. However on July 9, 1776, a crowd of patriots who were whipped into an energetic frenzy by the public reading of the Declaration of Independence, tore down the statue and dismembered it. And to add further insult

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to the Crown in England, the pieces were melted down to be used as bullets against the British forces at the start of the revolution.

The small plot of green remains today as Bowling Green Park, and continues to be one of the city's most popular and historic landmarks. Standing at the beginning of the longest and most famous street in the world, it has remained familiar in form and unchanged in purpose since those early days when spirited Dutchmen first introduced the old sport of bowling to the new world. Travelers from throughout the world continue to enjoy the tiny little park at the tip of the island.

4. Lodowick Pos's Tavern late 1650's-unknown map 1 - ML map 2 - BC

This plot was originally granted to Jan Martin by the Dutch West India Co. in 1650, but in the late 1650's it became the site of a tavern kept by Lodowick Pos. Pos became captain of the "Rattle Watch," a group of eight men who patrolled the streets from dusk until dawn, keeping a fire watch while the townspeople slept. The little fire brigade was also known as the "Prowlers," and had been formally organized back in 1648 as the city's first Volunteer Fire Department. . . . an organization that by its final days in 1865 numbered over four thousand volunteer members. The threat of fire was a very real hazard from the very beginning of the settlement, and the townspeople took comfort in knowing of the little brigade's vigilance throughout the night.

5. No.1 Broadway 1650-present map 1 - ML maps 2 thru 7 - BC

This site has marked the very beginning of the world's longest and most famous street since colonial days. About 1650 the first permanent house on Manhattan Island was built here by Pieter Cocks, who received the original land grant from the Dutch West India Co. Cocks, and later his wife Annetje, operated one of New Amsterdam's most popular taverns here for many years. Taverns were very successful and popular from the very start of the settlement (as they continued to be throughout Manhattan to this very day), especially in the vicinity of the old fort and the "Beaver's Path," where at the water's edge the people who crossed the North River to attend the Marckvelt landed their boats. Cocks was only too happy to share the prosperity with his neighbors. . . . Pos's Tavern on the west side and Martin Cregier's Tavern on his north side. The seemingly unquenchable thirst of the early Dutch settlers apparently contributed significantly to the colony's early and continued prosperity (see 68).

In 1771 Captain Archibald Kennedy built his stately and beautiful residence here at No. 1 Broadway. Like most of the early homes here on the west side of lower Broadway in colonial days it was situated on property which ran all the way to the water's edge of the North (Hudson) River. The Kennedy mansion grounds featured a lovely garden between the house and the river, which at that time was only a distance of about 200 feet (because of all the landfill along the western shoreline thru the years, that distance is about 1600 feet today). During the American Revolution General George Washington used the home as his headquarters, as did the British General William Howe later during the British occupation of the city. The building was demolished in 1882.

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About 1884 the Washington Building was erected on this site, which in 1921 was transformed into the present building known as No.1 Broadway, owned by the International Mercantile Marine Co.

6. No.9 and 11 Broadway 1643-present map 1 - ML maps 2 thru 7 - BC

This was actually the first lot deeded on "De Heere Straat" by the Dutch West India Co. It was granted to Martin Cregier, a notable citizen with many successful occupations, who became one of the first two burgomasters and one of the four original fire wardens in the city. In 1659 he built a tavern here which eventually became a very fashionable resort. Popular though it was, Cregier's Tavern eventually became outdated and was torn down. Later a new tavern was built in its place.

In 1763, a Mrs. Steel who had operated the King's Arms Tavern opposite the Exchange for 30 years, moved her business to No.11 Broadway, where it continued to operate as one of New York's most renowned establishments. The proprietorship later changed, and it operated as The Atlantic Garden as late as 1860. . . . only the second structure to occupy that site in over 200 years. The tavern business did indeed prosper and endure in both good times and bad throughout the city's long and often tumultuous history (see 5 and 68). This can no doubt be credited to the rather important role the taverns played in the daily lives of the people (sometimes entire families) who frequented them. Unlike most taverns, bars and saloons of today, they were usually far more than simply a place where one goes to indulge in a little libations. Many were also a cafe, sometimes offered overnight accommodations, and almost always served as a neighborhood social center and meeting place where one could conduct business or simply relax and enjoy the companionship of friends and neighbors.

In 1898, a new building was erected on this site which housed the Bowling Green offices. A stained glass window by the famous artist Edwin A. Abbey depicting early Dutchmen engaged in their favorite game of bowling on the green is featured in the lobby.

7. Jan Stevenson - Schoolmaster 1644 - unknown map 1 - ML map 2 - MC

Jan Stevenson was probably the settlement's second Schoolmaster. He received an original grant to land just south of this site in 1643, and there is some question as to whether the house in which he lived and taught school at the time of these maps might not more accurately belong a few hundred feet south of this site. It was a common practice to hold classes in the home of the Schoolmaster in the days of the early Dutch settlers, and a strict discipline of pupils was maintained at all times. However many children never saw the inside of a schoolroom, relying on what was learned in the home to carry them through life's challenges. Fortunately this was a time of close family relationships, and the mother was almost always in the home. Also, the older children often went into an extensive apprenticeship training to learn a particular skill or trade.

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8. The Old churchyard and Dominie's Home 1654-unknown map 1 - ML map 2 - MC

The site here fronting on De Heere Straat (Broadway) is shown as "the old churchyard" or "old cemetery" on several maps of original land grants, yet no reference can be found of any church having existed here. However there is no doubt that it was the site of one of the very first cemeteries on the tip of the island.

The adjacent lot to the west overlooking the North River was granted to the Reverend Dominie Samuel Drisius in 1654. The Dominie Drisius was the second clergyman of the Dutch church to come to the settlement, and held a very important and influential position in the community . . . about on a par with that of the highest governing official.

9. Site of Adrian Block's Huts. 1613-1614 Map 1 - TL map 2 - MC

Captain Adrian Block and his crew spent the winter of 1613 near this site at what is now No.45 Broadway. Captain Block commanded the "Tyger," one of two Dutch ships exploring the bay area and the coastal shores of Manhattan Island in the fall of 1613. The second ship the "Fortune," was under the command of Captain Hendrick Christenson. Block's ship caught fire and became unseaworthy, requiring him and his crew to prepare for spending the winter on the island while the Fortune returned to Holland.

Block and his crew erected four small crude huts for survival during the bitterly cold winter months. Fortunately they were able to salvage enough of the tools they had on board the ship to manage to construct another small vessel during the ensuing months, taking advantage of the plentiful supply of timber in the area. By the spring of 1614 the new ship was ready to set sail for their homeland, and they christened it the "Onrust" . . . the Dutch word for restless.

Thus, Block and his crew became the first Europeans to spend any length of time on the island. During his exploratory trips to the area Block carefully mapped his discoveries, as he sailed around the island's shorelines and in and out of the bay, rivers and inlets. Hell Gate, a treacherous stretch of the East River was identified and named by Block on one of his early maps. He is also generally credited with discovering Long Island and Block Island. He and his crew also hold the distinction of having built the first ship made in America.

It is interesting to note, and indicative of the metal of which men like Block and his crew were made, that they chose not to return immediately to their homeland when the Onrust was finished, but instead continued with further exploration of the area and returned to Holland the following year, 1615.

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10. West India Company's Garden about 1635- 1696 map 1 - TL map2 - MC

This was the site of the original garden and orchard operated by the Dutch West India Co. It provided a supply of fresh fruits and vegetables for the company's officials and employees, and to supplement the gardens of the townspeople as the little settlement grew.

In 1656 the land was granted to the burgomasters, but it continued as a garden. In about 1675 under the English it became a garden in the southern end of what became known as "The Kings Farm." In 1696, Governor Fletcher, an Episcopalian gave a portion of the valuable land to the vestry for the site of the proposed Trinity Church (see 47).

11. The Palisade (Fortified Wall) 1653- 1699 map 1 - TL, TC & TR map 2 MC

In 1653 Governor Stuyvesant built an imposing wall of 12ft. planks sharpened at the top, supported by post framing. It was reinforced on the inside by a sloping breastwork of earth spanning between bastions which could accommodate artillery pieces. It had two gates of sufficient size to permit the passage of horse drawn wagons. The gate at De Heere Straat (Broadway) was known as the "Landt Poort," while the gate on the shore of the East River was known as the "Water Poort." In the mid 1600's there were only a few settlers living beyond the gates "outside" the wall.

Stuyvesant had the wall constructed because of his concern with the increasing friction the Dutch were encountering with the New Englanders, their major trading rivals to the north. However, between 1664 and 1674 the control of the city changed hands three times between the English and the Dutch, and never once was the wall put to the test in warfare. On the other hand, it did have the negative effect of restricting the natural growth of the city to the north.

In the late 1600's the wall gradually deteriorated, and the town's inhabitants began stealing the lumber for their personal use as firewood and for repairing their property. In 1685 British Gov. Dongon had the wall surveyed, and gave the official title of "Wall Street" to the street along which it ran . . . little knowing that one day that street would become the most famous street of financial institutions in the world.

In 1699 the British had what remained of the old wall torn down and the area cleared for better use.

12. The "Half Moon" Battery about 1640-1699 map 1 - TR map 2 - MC

The old battery and guard house just inside the "Water Poort" at the shore of the East River was in the shape of a half moon with a perimeter curving out to the waters edge. The Water Poort gate was the busier of the two gates thru the fortified wall (see 11), because in the early days of the settlement there were more homes and businesses along the eastern shoreline.

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13. **The Schaapen Weytie (sheep pasture)**
until mid 1600's map 1 - TC map 2 - MC

In the early days of the Dutch settlers this was a low swampy area which they used as a community pasture for grazing sheep and cattle. A natural brook ran southeasterly thru the center along what is now Broad Street, flowing into the East River. As the town grew, the brook was converted into a canal (see 14), and as the banks became confined within the walls of the canal, the surrounding area was gradually reclaimed for streets, home and business sites, and gardens to better serve the needs of the growing population.

14. **The Heere Graft (common ditch)**
about 1650-1676 map 1 - MC map 2 - MC

From the early days of the Dutch settlement of the tip of the island, the course of what is now Broad street, stretching from the East River almost to the Palisade (Wall St.), played an important role in the city's development. Much of their trading and commercial activities were centered around the "Heere Graft" or common ditch created by the creek which flowed southeasterly thru the "Shaapen Weytie" (sheep pasture) (see 13), along the path of present Broad St., and into the East River.

The country people rowed over from long island and entered the little creek at its natural inlet at the shoreline. They then rowed up the natural canal to a landing area at the foot of a path worn by these early shoppers and traders as they walked from the docking site across the field to the "Marckvelt" (see 3), the little settlement's first marketplace in front of the fort. The path became known as the "Marckvelt Steegie" in the early days, and later as Marketfield street, and joins Battery Place as one of the very first roads established in the city.

The canal played such an important role in the lives of the early Dutchmen that they sheathed the banks with built up walls of planking and filled in earth along the outside to a height level with the adjacent ground thus creating a canal much like those in their beloved homeland. Twelve foot wide paths were maintained on each side running its full length to provide for traffic and activities of both a commercial and social nature. Three bridges were built for crossing the canal, with the widest one at "Brugh Straat" (Bridge St.) permitting the crossing of livestock and wagons. When the tide was in the canal could be used by small boats all the way up to what is now Exchange St. just below Wall St. An area by the bridge at the intersection of The Heere, Graft and Brugh Straat soon became the city's first designated produce exchange, where every Friday morning the farmers and fruit growers of the region met to trade and sell to the townspeople.

In 1676 after the British occupied the city, the canal was filled in, creating a very fine and broad thoroughfare, hence it became known as Broad Street . . . and one of America's first canals vanished forever.

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15. **O. S. Van Cortlandt Residence and Brewery**
1638-1684 map 1-MC map 2 - BC

Oloff Stevensen Van Cortlandt was an ambitious young soldier working for the Dutch West India Co. when he came to New Amsterdam in 1638. He became one of the city's first Burgomasters from 1655 to 1665, and soon went on to become head of a large brewery here on Brouwer St. Van Cortlandt became very wealthy, amassing one of the biggest fortunes in the colony by the time of his death in 1684. His success in the brewery business did little to sooth his wives constant complaining about the dust being raised by the horse drawn delivery wagons along the dirt street in front of their house. Van Cortlandt proceeded to have the street paved with stones, thus becoming the city's first paved street. It soon became known as the "Stone Street," and still bears that name.

Van Cortlandt's descendants went on to increase their inherited wealth and influence as shipbuilders and merchants, and by holding positions of prominence in public office . . . and by marrying into other families of great wealth. Thus, the Van Cortlandts were one of the most prominent families in New York history.

16. **Adam Roelantsen First Schoolmaster**
1638-unknown map 1 - MC map 2 - BC

On or near this site the first school in New York was opened by a Dutch schoolmaster in 1638. As was the custom at that time, the classes were held in the home of the schoolmaster. Under the auspices of the Dutch West India Co., the Dutch schoolmaster Adam Roelantsen started the Dutch Free School. It later became known as the "Collegiate School of the Dutch Reformed-Church," the oldest institution of learning in, Manhattan (also see 39).

17. **White Horse (or Wooden Horse) Tavern**
1643-unknown map 1 - MC map 2 - BC

Philip Geraerdy built the White Horse Tavern here in 1643, one of the little settlement's first taverns. Like most of the many taverns in early New Amsterdam, it was a popular place with the local gentry for relaxing and a brief respite from the hardships and rigors of their time. In some areas there were as many as two or three neighboring taverns, with others within a short distance. One wonders how the old Dutchmen ever got any work done.

- 18 thru 20. **Dutch West India Co's. Operational Facilities**
about 1630-1680 map 1 - MC map 2 - BC

The Dutch West India Co. operated much as a commercial federation under the auspices of the home government in the Netherlands. Branches such as New Amsterdam were subject to the authority of the parent organization, yet they enjoyed distinct rights and privileges and the exercise of self-government. As New Amsterdam quickly grew from an obscure little post in the wilderness into a thriving settlement and successful commercial enterprise, the company took steps to insure that it remain self-sufficient and secure. This required constructing and maintaining

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all types of facilities normally associated with a self-sufficient community to provide whatever foods, goods and services might be necessary for the well being of the citizenry. Among the company owned and operated facilities were those shown at sites 18, 19 and 20. (also see 10, 16 and 22).

18. The 5 stone services shops built around 1630, used to house employees and as storehouses. Some were later used as crafts and service shops.

19. The company's Pack House (warehouse).

20. The company's Bakery (see area BC on maps 1 and 2).

21. **Dominie Everadus Bogardus First Clergyman**
1633-1642 map 1 - MC map 2 - BC

The Dominie Bogardus was the first permanent clergyman in the new little settlement of New Amsterdam. He resided in a house at this site during the period that the members of the First Dutch Reformed Church were meeting in a modest church, also the first on the tip of the island (see 25), before moving into the new church in the fort. As Dominie, Bogardus played an active role in both the religious and civil affairs of the community.

22. **Jacques Cortelyou Surveyor's Office**
mid 1600's-unknown map 1 - MC map 2 - BC

This was the office of the surveyor who drew the original plan of the city in 1660, upon which much of the detail of map 1 is based. Cortelyou's plan became known as the Castello Plan after the villa near Florence where it was discovered. The plan, made only four years after the English captured the city, provides us with a beautifully detailed and accurate map of the town and is one of the most informative documents of the period still in existence.

Cortelyou also ranks as one of New York's very first commuters, as while this location near the old fort was his office, his home was on long island.

23. **Schreyer's (or Schreijer's) Hook**
until about 1676 map 1 and 2 - BC

The early Dutch called the natural small peninsula formed by the southern tip of the island "Schreyer's (or Schreijer's) Hook." There was a short tower here known as the "Schreijerstoren" (Crier's Tower), and the early settlers often came here to greet the incoming ships, and wave goodbye to old friends and loved ones who were returning to Holland. Here at the waterside one found both great joy and deep sadness.

Governor Stuyvesant selected a site near the waters edge here at the "hook" on which to build his mansion in 1658 (see 24). The little peninsula lost its identity about 1676 when the large wet docks were built enclosing the waters of the shoreline just north of the "hook," in the area of

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the Weighhouse Pier shown on maps one and two. The "Weighhouse Public Pier" was built about 1659, and was Manhattan's first public pier.

The Indians called the large rocks just off the southern tip of the shoreline "Capske." The town's early inhabitants enjoyed watching the seals playing and sunning themselves on them.

24. **Whitehall (the Governor's Mansion)**
1658-1715 map 1 and 2 - BC

The fourth and last Dutch Director General Peter Stuyvesant, grew tired of his dusty old house in the fort, and in 1658 started construction of a more sumptuous house on Schreyer's Hook (see 23). Considerable landfill was required to sufficiently elevate the ground level to permit the building of the two and a half story "Greathouse." The house (which stood approximately at the intersection of what is now Whitehall and State streets) was in every respect a grand mansion made of stone construction, and with its beautiful fenced in yard and garden, it became the showplace of the young colony.

When the first British Governor took over from Stuyvesant in 1664, he named it "Whitehall," after the Royal Palace in London.

The building was destroyed by fire in 1715, but its famous name has been perpetuated in the current Whitehall Street.

25. **First Dutch Reformed Church**
1633-1642 map 1 - MC map 2 - BC

Everadus Bogardus, who came from Holland to New Amsterdam in 1633, was a Dominie of the Dutch Reformed Church. He soon had a modest wooden structure built on this site for the members of his church who had been meeting in the loft of the old mill on Slyck Steegh (now South William St.) (see 28). The structure here at what is now 39 Pearl St. was not only the first church built in Manhattan, but the first Dutch Reformed Church built in America. It served their needs until the Dominie managed to get a new and much finer and more spacious Church built for them in the fort in 1642.

It is important to note that the early settlers considered their spiritual heads to be on a par with their political leaders. Though a man of the cloth, Bogardus was by no means of a docile nature and was often at odds with the inept Governor Van Twiller and his successor in 1638, the fiery Governor Kieft. They frequently clashed violently, especially over Kieft's blundering policies for dealing with the Algonkian Indians . . . a policy which brought about some of the most disgraceful massacres of Indians in American history. After long fought legal battles and mutual threats, they finally tired of fighting each other and declared a truce.

In 1647 Peter Stuyvesant came to the colony as the new governor replacing Kieft. Ironically, that same year the two combatants Bogardus and Kieft sailed for Holland together, but never reached their homeland . . . they were shipwrecked and drowned off the coast of England.

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26. The Stadt Huys (City Hall) 1642-1699 map 1 - MR map 2 - BC

In its day this was one of the most impressive and busy buildings in New Amsterdam. Originally built as the "Stadt Herbergh" (City Tavern) in about 1642, it was an imposing five story gabled structure of typical Dutch design and construction of its time. A commodious structure, it featured pediment walls capped with square ruffled gables at the roof ends which were peaked with chimney stacks. Its large open cupola bell tower at the center of the roof ridge was perfect for summoning the townspeople from its busy location at the water's edge.

When the city was granted its first municipal charter in 1653 it became New Amsterdam's first City Hall. Here the burgomasters, schepens and magistrates presided over their various offices and clerks. It also served as a meeting place, a courthouse, a debtors' prison, jail and public warehouse.

Indeed, the old Stadt Huys became the town's major center of civic and social activity in the mid to late 1600's. However, by the end of the century it had outlived its usefulness. The British began abandonment and demolition of the old and dilapidated building in 1699 when construction of the new City Hall was started on Wall St. (see 41).

27. First Jewish Synagogue 1729-early 1800's maps 1, 2 and 3 - MC

Here near the site of what had been the home of Evert Duycking on the estate granted him in 1643, the first Jewish congregation, Shearith Israel, built the first permanent temple in New York in 1729. They had been previously meeting in the loft of the large two story windmill (see 28) just north of this location for about 40 years. Many were descendants of the first Jewish refugees who arrived from Brazil in 1654. They bought the land here near the site of what is now 26 South William St. for "100 pounds, plus a loaf of sugar and a pound of tea."

In 1656 Governor Stuyvesant's Council granted a burial ground to the congregation (see map 4 - TR), which became the country's first Jewish burial ground. A plot of the old cemetery near Chatham Square remains today as the oldest burial ground in Manhattan. Many eminent Jews from the colonial and revolutionary period are buried there.

28. Old Bark Mill 1626-unknown maps 1 and 2 - MC

Built near this site at what is now 32 - 34 So. William St. about 1626, the big two story windmill was used primarily for grinding corn and grain. Its large second story loft also served as a meeting room for various social and religious functions. Members of the First Dutch Reformed Church met there until 1633 when they moved to their modest wooden church built by the new Dominie Everadus Bogardus (see 25). New York's first Jewish Congregation Shearith Israel started meeting there in the 1680's, and continued to do so until they were able to afford to purchase land just south of the mill and build their first permanent temple (see 27).

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29. Burger Jorissen's Estate 1644-1665 map 1 - TR map 2 - MC

Burger Jorissen was one of the first Dutch blacksmiths in the colony. He lived here in the area of what has since become Hanover Square. The two buildings just to the west on map one are his blacksmith shop and still house, which in 1644 were among the first in town. He performed many of the services which were essential to the young community, and trained young apprentices in the skills of the trade. The path which ran past his house from his shops at the lower end of "Smee Straat" (William St.) sloping down to the water's edge was known as "The Burger's Path."

Jorissen was well liked and respected by the townspeople and soon held the position of Burgomaster, and as the appointed Mayor he was also chairman of the local council. He ardently supported the local interests, and had a great deal of authority and prestige. He also took considerable pride in the town's Dutch heritage, and urged Gov. Stuyvesant to fight the British takeover of their town. But he was outvoted, and when the British took over the city, Jorissen returned to his native Holland never to return again to the new land he had learned to love.

30. The Merchant's Exchange 1650-early 1800's map 1 - MC maps 2, 3 and 4 - BC

Even back in the days of the early Dutch settlers the inlet to the canal (see 14) at the foot of the "Heere Graft" (now Broad St.) was a busy trading place for merchants of the town and those crossing the East River from Long Island. The area became known as the "Merchants Exchange" in 1670, then simply as "The Exchange." After the canal was filled in 1676, the transactions were carried out on the sidewalks in the area at the foot of Broad St. along the shore. Eventually a pavilion was provided for shelter from inclement weather. In 1752 a large relatively open building was built for the exchange activities and to be used for all manner of public gatherings.

31. Goovert Loockerman Residence (later Captain Kidd's) mid 1600's-1696 map 1 - TR map 2 - MC

In the mid 1600's Goovert Loockerman built a fine house on this site near what is presently the City Farmers Trust Co. at Hanover Square. Loockerman was a wealthy and influential merchant who represented the prosperous Amsterdam trading firm of Gillis Verbrugge & Co. from a business office just south of Van Cortlandt's Brewery on Brouwer Straat.

From about 1691 to 1696 the house was occupied by William Kidd, a man destined to become a pirate and amass a fortune from his pirating exploits. Kidd was a Scotsman, a son of a Calvinist minister, who sailed as a legitimate privateer against the French from about 1689 to 1695. In 1695 he received a royal commission in London to apprehend pirates who were plundering ships of the East India Co. in the Indian Ocean.

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Kidd returned to New York July 4, 1696 to take on additional crewmen for his new ship the "Adventure," and to visit his wife and son. In late 1696 Kidd sailed around the Cape of Good Hope and up the east coast of Africa. In Feb. 1697 while at the Comoro Islands, Kidd decided that pirating was far more rewarding than chasing pirates, and decided to turn to piracy. After learning that he had been denounced as a pirate in April 1699, he sailed back to America and tried to persuade then Governor of New York Bellomont of his innocence. Instead he was sent to England for trial, and was found guilty and hanged on May 23, 1701.

During the period in which he lived in New York, Kidd was a well respected man of the community. He and his family attended Trinity Church regularly and made substantial contributions to its building. While some of his treasure was presumably recovered from Gardiner's Island, some historical documentation suggests he may not have been as notorious as popularly believed, and was made a scapegoat by the British to cover irregular actions they had sanctioned.

32. **Fish Market at Coenties Slip**
about 1675-1875 maps 3, 4 and 5 - BC

33. **Old Slip Market**
about 1675-1835 maps 3, 4 and 5 - MC

The Old Slip area thrived as one of the city's most popular and colorful areas from the late 1600's to 1835. Many houses and buildings of the old Dutch construction with their pediment walls, gables and chimney stacks, remained in the area until 1835, and were the only substantial quantity remaining in the city. The great fire of 1835 (see map 5 for area of destruction) destroyed the entire neighborhood, including the popular old Franklin Market, and the last remaining charming reminders of the old Dutch Colony vanished forever.

- 33A. **The Franklin Market**
1836-unknown map 5 - MC

The new Franklin Market was built on this site in 1836, after the disastrous fire of 1835 destroyed the old market and the entire neighborhood.

34. **Meat Market and Slave Market**
about 1675-unknown maps 3 and 4 - MC

This area just above the slip at the foot of Wall Street was known as the Meat Market until about 1710. Meat from the slaughter house just north of here was sold to the townspeople and others crossing over from Brooklyn and Long Island.

This area was also known as the Slave Market, where crowds gathered regularly for the buying and selling of slaves, a legal practice of the time. It was the Dutch West India Co. who first brought African slaves to the northern coast of colonial America from their possessions along the Guinea coast known as the "Slave Coast." A Dutch ship brought the first slaves to Virginia in

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1619, but while the French and others also dealt in the slave trade, it was the English who became the most important importers of slaves. Not only was slavery legal, but also the Christian religions did not proscribe slavery. In 1714 there were 59,000 slaves in the colonies, the vast majority being in Virginia and the southern plantation colonies. By 1754 that number reached 263,000. Despicable as it was, slavery was then considered a respectable business by most, and like the Dutch West India Co., was little more distasteful than any other part of the business.

34. **Coffee House Slip and Merchant's Coffee House**
1710-1804 maps 3 and 4 - MC

During this period many coffee houses in this area became popular business and social meeting places, and it became known as "Coffee House Slip."

In 1740 "Merchants Coffee House" was erected at this site near what is now the southeast corner of Wall and Water streets, and much informal business and trading was conducted here. Eventually it became headquarters for a group of Wall St. traders who had been conducting their business under an old buttonwood tree which stood near the curb on the north side of Wall, between William and Queen (now Pearl) streets (see 70A&B).

Many meetings and events of local and national significance took place in the old Merchant's Coffee House. The committee of citizens who played a prominent role in the stirring events leading to the American Revolution met here. It was here that they drafted their epoch making letter of May 23, 1774 stating:

"From a virtuous and spirited union much may be expected, while the feeble efforts of a few will only be attended with mischief and disappointment to themselves and triumph to the adversaries of our liberty." From this resulted the first meeting of the "Congress of the United Colonies of North America" in Philadelphia on Sept. 5, 1774 . . . thus giving the old coffee house some credibility as the real birthplace of our union.

Other notable events held here include a banquet for the President and members of the Continental Congress while meeting in New York in 1785. Also, a reception for General Washington on his arrival for his inauguration as our nation's first President in April 1789.

The old coffee house was destroyed by fire December 18, 1804. A new coffee house "The Phoenix" was built on its site in 1805.

35. **The Fly Market**
1695-1821 maps 3 and 4 - MC

This famous old trading center was originally known as the "Vley Market" back in 1695. The name came to be used for a trading center which was developing in the general area known as "Smit's (Smith's) Valley." "Valley" was shortened to "Vley," and eventually "Vley" became corrupted to "Fly." The area where Maiden Lane formerly reached the East River just below Queen (Pearl) St. became the main trading center for the townspeople with Long Island farmers.

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In the late 1700's two large pavilions were erected for the merchants activities during inclement weather. The one at the foot of the slip was a fish market, while the other just to the west of it continued to operate as the Fly Market where produce and other commodities were traded. At the foot of the slip were steps leading down to the water level, where a dock for the Long Island Ferry boarded passengers. Apparently the Ferry to Brooklyn also used the dock at some period of time.

Along with the other markets along the southeastern shore, the Fly Market prospered throughout the 1700's. But by the early 1800's the city had grown and spread out to the point where the old markets around the tip of the island could no longer satisfy the daily needs of the burgeoning population. Improvements in streets and transportation fostered improvements in the distribution of food . . . which in turn stimulated the decentralization of food markets. The fly market closed in 1821 as did many others by the mid to late 1800's.

36. William Bradford - First Printer 1693-1743 map 3 - MC

In the early days of the city, the gossip and news was quite adequately disseminated by word of mouth in the neighborhood taverns, markets and other public gathering places. But by 1693 the town had grown to such an extent that the need for printed news and other material was apparent, and Governor Fletcher brought William Bradford, a Philadelphia printer to New York. Bradford was appointed the city's first Public Printer, and brought with him the first printing press in New York. He set up shop just south of here, now 81 Pearl St.

In 1725 Bradford began the semi-official weekly publication of the New York Gazette, New York's first newspaper, from a print shop near this site at 3 Hanover Street. He continued as its editor until his retirement at age 80, in 1743.

Bradford's excellent training of young apprentices resulted in at least three of them establishing their own newspapers after his death at age 89. His body lies among the dignitaries buried in the grounds of the Trinity Churchyard.

37. Staten Island Ferry Dock 1713-present maps 3 thru 7 - BC

Ferry boats have docked here at the Battery since they began carrying passengers to and from Staten Island in 1713.

From about 1630 to 1660 the Dutch tried to establish a settlement on the island, but were unsuccessful due to the brutal attacks by the Aquehonga Indians. In 1661 the Dutch West India Co. granted land on the island to French Huguenots who were finally successful in establishing the first permanent settlement. Staten Island became a borough of New York City in 1898, and is still principally a residential suburb of the city.

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38. Fraunces Tavern 1719-present maps 3 thru 7 - BC

The building here at what is now 59 Pearl St. is considered the oldest existing structure in Manhattan, and has become one of the city's most famous landmarks.

Stephen DeLancey, a member of one of New York's most wealthy and influential colonial families, built the original building as his family residence in 1719, and it is said to have looked very much then as it does today. In later years it served as the home of Col. Joseph Robinson who no doubt managed to live quite comfortably in its 14 rooms, 5 of which were bedrooms and 13 fireplaces. After Robinson's death in 1759 it was used as a warehouse.

In 1762 it was purchased by Samuel Fraunces, a West Indian of French and Negro ancestry. Fraunces opened it as a hotel in 1763, calling it "The Queens Head Tavern" in honor of Queen Charlotte, the wife of England's King George III. Both Fraunces and his establishment became well renowned, and his guest list included many prominent individuals. George Washington stayed here and it was here that he bade farewell to his officers in the famous "Long Room" when he retired his command in 1783. That same year De Witt Clinton gave a celebratory dinner to commemorate the evacuation of the city by the British here. And it was in the "Long Room" that the "Sons of the American Revolution" and the New York State Chamber of Commerce were founded.

Fraunces sold the Inn to George Powers of Brooklyn in 1785, and turned to the more quiet life of a simple farmer for several years. In 1789 George Washington chose Fraunces to act as steward of his Presidential household during the period in which the new president resided at St. Georges (later Franklin) Square (see 67). Fraunces died in 1798, and Washington died the following year.

George Powers sold the old Inn to Thomas Gardner in 1801. Throughout the subsequent 100 years the building was allowed to deteriorate badly, including falling victim to several fires. At one point it even became a broken down hotel for transients.

In 1904 the Sons of the American Revolution bought the building from Gardner's descendants. The building had become so badly deteriorated that the only portion of the original building that remains intact in the completely restored building is a portion of the original Holland Brick walls.

It is now operated as a restaurant, club and small museum.

39. South Dutch Reformed (Garden St.) Church and Free School 1693-1835 maps 3, 4 and 5 - MC

The old Dutch church in the fort served the congregation well for fifty years (see 25), but was becoming in need of extensive repairs and too small for the growing membership. In 1693 a new church was built on this site on what was then Garden Street (now Exchange Pl.). It soon

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became known as the "Garden Street Church," and served its parish well for more than 100 years. In 1807 it too was torn down and replaced by a more commodious and pretentious structure on this same site. It in turn became known as the "Second Garden Street Church."

The devout Dutchmen believed in raising their children in a Christian educational system, and in 1747 they built the "Dutch Free School" across the street from the church. It operated at that location from 1748 to 1828, and continues to operate today at a different location. It is now known as the "Collegiate School of the Dutch Reformed Church," and having evolved from the old Free School dating back to 1638 (see 16), it is the oldest continuously operating institution of learning in the United States.

The second Garden Street Church was destroyed in the disastrous fire of 1835 (see map 5).

40. Bayard's Sugar House 1728-1770 map 3 - MC

Nicholas Bayard was a prominent landowner and political activist in the early days of the city. Much of his wealth was gained from a large sugar refinery he operated at this Wall St. site from about 1728 to 1770. Large quantities of refined sugar were consumed by the city's distillhouses (see 68) in making rum as well as for other food consumption.

41. City Hall - then Federal Hall 1704-1813 maps 3 and 4 - MC

In 1699 it was decided that the old Stadt Huys (City Hall - see 26) was no longer adequate to house the city's government offices, and construction of a new City Hall began at this site (now 22 Wall St.). Completed in 1704, the new building was simple but dignified, and featured a large cupola on the roof with clocks facing north and south. A large bell was added later which could be heard all over the city in the event of a fire . . . a dreaded but common occurrence in the old city. The new building provided a jail, courtroom, municipal offices, a debtors' prison, the supreme court and admiralty courts, and a library. The new building helped to establish Wall St. as the hub of the city's growth and government activities.

In 1735 one of America's most important public trials was held here. John Peter Zenger, publisher of the New York Weekly Journal, was imprisoned for daring to criticize His Excellency Gov. William Cosby. Issues of Zenger's papers were burned by officials in front of the Hall as a stern warning to the public who generally supported Zenger. Andrew Hamilton was the most famous lawyer in Philadelphia, and came to New York to defend Zenger. Zenger couldn't afford the excessive bail levied against him and spent several months in jail, but his case for freedom of the press was quickly becoming a matter of public concern. The case finally came to trial Aug. 4, 1735, and an impassioned plea by Hamilton won an acquittal by the jury. The case did much to establish the cause of freedom of the press in America.

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Many other significant events took place during the 1700's here at City Hall of both state and national importance. In 1765 the representatives of nine colonies held a Stamp Act Congress here, and issued a famous Declaration of Rights. In 1776 the Declaration of Independence was read to the people of New York from the steps of the City Hall. From 1784 until the state capital was moved to Albany in 1797 the state legislature met here. And from 1785 to 1790 the federal Congress also met in the old City Hall, thus the city served for a time as both the state and national capital.

In 1788 the Hall was repaired, remodeled and expanded to make room for the Continental Congress as the new nation's first Capital Building. The work was completed in 1789, and the new Federal Hall was considered by most to be the most imposing and beautiful building in America. The new Congress met for the first time on March 4, 1789, but held only two sessions here. The next month on April 30, George Washington was sworn in as the nation's first President on the balcony of Federal Hall, as thousands of spectators chanted loudly "Long live George Washington, the President of the United States."

The following year the Capital was moved to Philadelphia, and the building once again became City Hall. The building gradually deteriorated, and in 1800 it was proposed to build a new City Hall at Park Row and Broadway (see 86). Construction began in 1802, and the new building was completed in 1811. The old City Hall was demolished in 1813. It had served the city, state and nation well during the course of its 100 plus year history. The course of the new form of democratic government for the American people was shaped here by perhaps the greatest political leaders in our entire history. It was here that James Madison introduced his Bill of Rights to that first Congress on June 8, 1789. On August 22, after a good deal of strenuous debate, the House accepted the 17 amendments to be affixed to the end of the Constitution. When they reached their final approved form on March 1, 1792, only ten remained to become the law of the land. But those ten represented perhaps the most important piece of legislation to be passed by our government guaranteeing the freedom and protecting the rights of all Americans.

41. U.S. Custom House 1814-1834 map 5 - MC

In 1814 Eastburn and Kirk, booksellers, built a new brick building on the site of the old Federal Hall.

In 1816 the federal government bought the property and it became the U.S. Custom House. In 1834, when a more spacious building was needed, an adjoining lot was purchased and the building was torn down so that a new larger building could be built on the site.

41. U.S. Sub-Treasury then Federal Hall National Monument 1834-present maps 6 and 7 - MC

The new U.S. Custom House was started in 1834 and completed in 1841. It subsequently became the Sub-Treasury, and in 1883 a huge bronze statue of George Washington was unveiled

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on the steps of the imposing building. The statue in front of the building has since become a familiar landmark on Wall St., and seems synonymous with the prestige and grandeur of the area.

In 1955 the building became the Federal Hall National Monument, a museum under the National Park Service. It remains so today, and contains many artifacts relating to the early history of the site thus preserving for future generations of Americans one of our nation's most historic sites.

42. French Huguenot Church 1704-1839 maps 3, 4 and 5 - MC

This quaint old church, L'Eglise du Saint Esprit, was built in 1704. It was attended by New Yorkers of the Hugenot faith, as well as by settlers from the French community in New Rochelle who were too poor to own horses and walked the 20 miles to attend Sunday services.

The revocation of the Edict of Nantes by Louis XIV in 1685 deprived the French Protestants of all religious and civil liberties, and a great many took refuge in the Protestant colonies in America. The Protestant colony in New York were a deeply religious and impoverished people, and were at first obliged to hold services in their homes. They later met in a small building near the fort. Later, when the small church was finally erected on this site, the faithful Hugenots from throughout the area gladly walked great distances to attend services in a church of their own.

The building was destroyed in 1839 when a fire which had started in an adjoining building, the National Theatre, spread quickly and engulfed the old church in flames before it could be extinguished.

43. New Dutch Reformed Church (Middle Dutch Church) 1729-1882 maps 3, 4 and 5 - MC

Dedicated about 1730, the New Dutch Reformed Church was built to accommodate members of the overflowing congregation of the old Dutch "Garden Street" church to the south. The new church also became known as "The Middle Dutch Church."

During the Revolutionary War, the British held captured rebels and prisoners here in the church. Later, after breaking up all of the pews for firewood during the cold winter months, they cleared out the building and used it as a riding academy for British Officers.

The church was restored after the war and continued to be used as a place of worship until 1844. In 1844 the federal government acquired the building, and it became the city's main post office. It was demolished in 1882.

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44. Quaker (Friends) Meeting House and Graveyard about 1710-1820 maps 3 and 4 - MC

Little is known about the Quaker Meeting House built about 1700 near this site at the northwest corner of Little Green St. (now Liberty Place) and Crown St. (now Liberty St.). It is probably the first meeting house established by the Friends in New York, and one of the earliest in the colonies.

45. First Presbyterian Church 1718-1844 maps 3, 4 and 5 - MC

About 1700 a missionary society in London sent two Presbyterian ministers to the little colony of New York, which at that time was under British control. Times were difficult, and the new congregation had only the homes of the faithful in which to hold services. They later managed to hold services in the new City Hall on Wall St.

In 1718 several members of the congregation got together and purchased this site in Peter Stoutenburgh's garden just west of the City Hall, on which they built a modest wooden structure, the first Presbyterian Church in New York in 1719.

The preaching of the great Evangelical Revivalist George Whitefield from 1744 to 1748 had an enormous effect on the spiritual life of the colonists. By the end of that period the number of ardent Presbyterian churchgoers had increased beyond the capacity of the little church. In 1748 the church was rebuilt of brownstone and enlarged to accommodate the burgeoning membership. This church served the membership well until it was used by the British as a prison, as were the Dutch Reformed churches during the Revolutionary War.

After the war it was again used as a house of worship, but its condition had deteriorated so badly that it was torn down and replaced by a new structure in 1811. Designed by one of the city's most renowned architects Joseph F. Mangin, who also designed the New (present) City Hall among other famous buildings of the period, it was a most impressive and inspiring structure. This church burned in 1834, but was rebuilt again the following year and served until about 1844, at which time it was taken down stone by stone and rebuilt again in Jersey City, N.J..

46. Lutheran Church 1702-1806 maps 3, and 4 - MC

The old Lutheran Church on the west side of lower Broadway was built by a combined parish of Dutch and Germans from the Palatinate in 1702. In order that each of the two groups could share equally in the services, half of each service was spoken in Dutch and half in German.

The church was virtually destroyed in the fire of 1776, after which the building was never used again as a church. However, it was repaired sufficiently to permit its use as a warehouse by a merchant who was also treasurer of the church. It served as a warehouse until about 1806, after which it became too dilapidated and was torn down.

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46. Grace Church 1809-1846 map 5 - MC

Erected in 1809 on the site of the old Lutheran Church by an Episcopalian group that had seceded from Trinity Parish, Grace Church had many wealthy and fashionable parishioners. By the 1840's it became so popular and crowded that the pews commanded a high fee from the members. The church continued to grow, and in 1846 it was decided to build a new more spacious church at Broadway and 10th. St. The new church was designed by James Renwick, who also designed St. Patrick's Cathedral, and is considered a masterpiece of the Gothic Revival in New York.

The old church at Broadway and Rector was torn down in 1846. The United States Steel Corporation now occupies the site.

47. Trinity Church 1698-present maps 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 - MC

One of the city's most famous landmarks, there has been a Trinity Church on this site for almost 300 years. Construction of the original church began in 1696, on a corner of the old West India Company's bouwerie. Governor Fletcher, an Episcopalian gave the valuable land, a section of "The King's Farm" to the vestry, who in turn provided a special pew for his personal use. A pew was also reserved for the city magistrates, who once a year attended service in a body after taking their oaths of office. According to vestry records Captain William Kid, who later became a pirate (see 31), was a church member who contributed to its construction not only monetarily, but also by lending a "runner and tackle for the hoisting up of stones."

Although the new church was modest in size, it presented a very pleasant setting, with its front tower and steeple overlooking the Hudson, and a quiet cemetery on each side. Unfortunately the little church stood in the path of the great fire of 1776 (see map 4). Its roof and interior were completely destroyed, and its somber ruins remained an eyesore for several years. The British finally cleared the ruins and used it as a military garden complete with bandstand where band concerts were often held when the weather permitted.

Construction of the second Trinity Church to be erected on the site began in 1788 and was completed the following year. Like its predecessor, it too befell an unfortunate fate when a heavy snowfall caved in the entire roof, and it was demolished in 1839.

Fortunately Trinity was a wealthy parish of many dignitaries and prominent citizens, and a third church was erected on the site. Its construction was started in 1841, and it took almost 5 years to complete the present and most elegant of structures. A most handsome structure of Gothic design, it features a brownstone facade, flying buttresses, beautiful stained glass windows and mediævally inspired sculpturing, and a beautiful soaring spire facing Broadway.

The two adjoining old graveyards to the north and south of the church contain the graves of Alexander Hamilton, Dr. Samuel Johnson the distinguished first President of Kings College,

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William Bradford New York's first printer and newspaper publisher (see 36), Robert Fulton whose design and operation of the steamboat "Clermont" proved the practicality of steamboat travel, and others. The oldest grave is that of Richard Churcher who died in 1681. There is also a large tribute to the heroes and martyrs of the American Revolution who died while imprisoned by the British during their occupation of the city. The historic old graveyards still provide one of the few areas of tranquil shaded lawns on the tip of the island, where one can meditate and relax on a pleasant day.

48. De Lancey Mansion, later City Arms, then Burns Tavern 1735-1776 maps 3 and 4 - MC

After Lt. Governor Stephen De Lancey vacated his first home which later became Frances Tavern (see 38), he built a grand mansion between Little Queen (now Cedar St.) and Little Stone (now Thames St.) on the west side of Broadway near this site of what is now 111-115 Broadway. Built in the 1730's, this spacious home later became a tavern operated by several owners over the succeeding years and was given various names including "The Province Arms" and "The City Arms." In the years preceding the American Revolution it was known as "Burns Tavern," a very popular tavern and coffee house, it became a meeting place for the more spirited and rebellious citizenry of the city. It was here in Burns Tavern on Oct. 31, 1775 that the "Nonimportation Agreement" was signed by the merchants and political leaders of the colony in opposition to the Stamp Act. This action became one of several which led to the outbreak of the Revolutionary War in 1776.

Along with many other buildings in the city, the tavern fell victim to the great fire of 1776 (see map 4), and after the war it was demolished to make room for the new City Hotel.

48. The City Hotel about 1783-1850 map 5 - MC

The new City Hotel was one of the city's finest buildings, with its spacious ballroom, tavern and meeting rooms, and it was the first building in the city to have a slate roof. Over the years it hosted many distinguished celebrities, including Washington Irving and Charles Dickens. Its ballroom was the scene of many elegant social functions including concerts held by the first Philharmonic Society.

After John Jacob Astor built the even more elegant "Astor House" a little further uptown in 1836 (see 85), the popularity of the old City Hotel began to decline. It was torn down in 1849.

48. Various Stores then The Trinity Building 1850-present maps 6 and 7 - MC

During the period 1850 to 1905 various stores occupied the site. Two fine examples of early 20th. Century Gothic skyscrapers, the Trinity Bldg. and the U.S. Realty Building now occupy this site at 111 and 115 Broadway.

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49. **Mesier's Windmill**
1686-1780 maps three and 4 - ML

Mesier's windmill stood at the end of Windmill Lane near the bank of the North River. Built in the days of the early colony in 1686, the big windmill became a landmark for ships and river craft, as its tall "sails" could be seen for great distances. It was relatively easy to navigate by both land and water around the tip of the island in the days of the early settlers by simply becoming familiar with the locations of the great windmills.

Mesier's Windmill prevailed for almost a hundred years before becoming run down, and it was finally torn down about 1780. By about the end of the 1700's all of the city's marvelous windmills had vanished.

50. **Tea Water Pump at the Fresh Water (Collect) Pond**
mid 1700's-1820's map 4 - TC

During this period the town's water was supplied by springs which flowed into the "Collect Pond," and of course many individuals had their private wells. But the old Collect Pond was the main source of water for public use, and the most dependable by far. The water was distributed from here daily in horse drawn "tea water carts" which traveled their established routes throughout the city. The pump which was used to load the carts was located near this site at the Collect Pond (also known as the Fresh Water Pond), and was called "The Tea Water Pump."

The Fresh Water Pond supplied the demands of the city until the early 1800's when the method of distribution by "tea carts" could no longer keep up with the demand for a reliable and safe water supply system (see 79), and the Manhattan Co. was formed.

51. **The Common then City Hall Park**
mid 1600's-present maps 2 thru 7 - TC

The area now known as City Hall Park was simply a remote field outside the palisade which became known as "The Common," and was used by the early settlers as a common grazing ground for livestock. As the population grew inside the fortified wall, it became impractical for the townspeople to have livestock grazing around their individual homes and gardens. A town's herdsman was appointed whose job it was to gather up all the livestock around town each morning, then drive them thru the "Land Gate" at the north end of De Heere Straat (the Broad Way) to the common grazing ground just north of the town. He then returned them to each owners gate each evening.

Gradually as the population spread beyond the confines of the palisade (Wall St.) reaching the common pasture and beyond, the 25-acre triangular plot formed by the intersection of what is now Broadway and Park Row became used for all sorts of activities. The area that had now become more of a park than a pasture was used for the drilling and parading of soldiers and as a public meeting place, and eventually became the site of various public and government buildings.

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The city poor house, work house, jail and soldier's barracks were built here around the mid 1700's. Later during the Revolution, the British military prison, Bridewell, was here packed with prisoners who were forced to sleep on the floor and endure great hardships. Also, the first free public school in New York held classes in a building here on the Common. The "Charity School" held classes here from 1806 thru 1808 and became the forerunner for the New York public school system. And the New York Historical Society started here in 1804.

In 1800 New Yorkers decided that the old City Hall on Wall St. was no longer adequate to meet the needs of the growing city (see 41) and decided it was time to build the finest City Hall in the nation (see 86) right here in the city park, and construction began in 1803. The area then became known as City Hall Park, and by the mid 1800's the old buildings were gone.

City Hall Park today provides lovely tree shaded lawns with walking paths and benches in the heart of bustling lower Manhattan, just south of the busy Civic Center. A handsome statue of Nathan Hale, the school teacher from Connecticut who became a patriot and Revolutionary War hero who was captured by the British and hanged in New York is in the park. Hale is famous for those last words "I regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." Also there is a statue of the famous newspaper man Horace Greeley, founder of the New York Tribune, but best remembered for his sage advice to the young fortune seekers of his time "go west, young man."

And so the park today represents far more than just the site of the monumental City Hall (see 86) and fabled old "Tweed" Courthouse (see 87), it is a pleasant link with the past history of the area and the city itself.

52. **Windmill on the Commons**
about 1660-1720 map 2 - TC

A large windmill stood near this site during the early Dutch days, possibly built by Nicholas Bayard an influential landowner and political activist in the early colony. Windmills played an important role in the processing of grain, and also were a delightful reminder of the colonists homeland far across the sea which many would never see again. A large windmill just north of this location in the vicinity of what is now Bowery and Hester streets stood on the old Bayard estate, and was probably the last of the old windmills when it was destroyed in the early 1800's. (see 2, 28 and 49).

53. **Ranelagh Gardens**
1765-unknown map 4 - TL-TC

Occupying the former mansion and grounds of Anthony Rutgers (see 61) a successful brewer, the Ranelagh Gardens was opened in 1765 by John Jones. It soon became one of New York's most famous and fashionable resorts, and is shown on several city maps of the period.

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54. **Rhineland Sugar House**
1763-1892 maps 4, 5 and 6 - TC

The Rhineland Sugar House stood near this site at the corner of what was formerly Rose and Duane streets. There were several "sugar houses" in the city about 1800, as it was the principal ingredient in distilling rum, and there were about seven distilleries operating in the city at that time (see 68).

During the Revolutionary War it was used as another prison for patriot soldiers captured by the British.

55. **Brick Presbyterian Church**
1768-1850 maps 4 and 5 - TC

In 1768 a new Presbyterian Church was erected on this site at Chatham and Nassau St. The "Brick Presbyterian Church," as it became known as, was under the direction of Dr. Spring, and was one of the best attended churches in the city . . . coexisting very well with Martling's tavern across the street near the southeast corner of what is now Nassau and Spruce streets. It is said that on the Sabbath Day the sexton of the old church used to stretch chains across the surrounding streets so that the services would not be disturbed by the rumbling of horse and buggy traffic outside the church. Dr. Spring officiated for nearly 50 years, during which time the church prospered and became an important influence on the congregation and affairs of the city.

Martling's tavern prospered also, as it became the first headquarters for the Tammany Hall group before they built their own building (see 92).

55. **New York Times Bldg. - now owned by Pace University**
1857-present maps 6 and 7 - TC

The old "Times" bldg. had a commanding presence in the heart of the area which was then known as "Printing House Square" and "Newspaper Row" (see 94). Built in 1857, the building was considerably enlarged in 1889, and again in 1905, and is now owned by Pace University.

56. **King's College - now Columbia University**
1754-1857 maps 4 and 5 - TL

In 1754 King George II executed a royal charter for a college to be built on this 5-acre tract of land which had been donated for this purpose by the Trinity Church. The main building opened for its first class of ten students in 1756. It was the desire of its founders that New Yorkers were to have a college superior to Harvard, Princeton (then known as the College of New Jersey), and Yale. It was attended by many prominent individuals including Alexander Hamilton in 1775, the first Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court John Jay, and the first U.S. Secretary of Foreign Affairs Robert Livingston. Dr. Samuel Johnson was the school's first president at the time of its founding as the sixth institution of higher learning in the colonies in 1755.

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In 1784 it became Columbia University, and moved uptown in 1857. Dwight D. Eisenhower was President of Columbia when he resigned in 1953 to become President of the United States.

57. **St. Paul's Chapel**
1766-present maps 4 thru 7 - TC

Started in 1764 and completed in 1766, St. Paul's Chapel is the oldest surviving structure and the only British built colonial church in Manhattan. It was designed by Thomas McBean, a pupil of James Gibbs who designed St. Martin-in-the-Field in London and was a student of the noted British architect Sir Christopher Wren. The ornamental details were designed by Pierre L'Enfant, the French architect who was a major in the Continental Army and designed the basic plan for the nation's new capital Washington, D.C. In its interior hangs 14 Waterford crystal chandeliers. A hand carved primitive statue of St. Paul stands above a portico, and the beautifully carved pulpit crowned with three feathers, the crest of the Prince of Wales, date back to pre-revolution days.

George Washington attended service here after being inaugurated our nation's first President and his pew is still preserved in the North isle. Governor DeWitt Clinton's pew is on the south isle, and many other dignitaries attended St. Paul's during its 200 plus years of service. The chancery contains a tablet to Sir John Temple, the first British Consul General to the United States after the Revolutionary War.

While most of the city's churches served as prisons and hospitals during the British occupation, St. Paul's remained a house of worship, mainly for the British officers. Also it was spared the fate of other churches and buildings which were destroyed in the disastrous fire of 1776 (see map 4) which fringed the grounds around it, thanks largely to the heroic efforts of numerous fire fighters.

St. Paul's was built as a subsidiary of Trinity Church (see 47) which unfortunately fell victim to the 1776 fire. It was originally built facing the Hudson River (west), but as Broadway became more prominent a portico and entrance were added to the east side. A tower and steeple were added in 1794. An adjoining cemetery contains the graves of many notable New Yorkers, and the body of General Richard Montgomery, who was killed in the heroic assault on Quebec, is entombed under the portico on the Broadway side.

St. Paul's Chapel remains today as one of the city's real treasures.

58. **The Oswego Market**
1730-1811 map 4 - MC

The original Oswego Market was a long open sided structure set right in the middle of Broadway at the head of Liberty Street. In the mid 1700's it was one of the city's most popular shopping and trading areas, but as the traffic increased on Broadway people became tired of the

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obstruction in the middle of the street. In 1773 it was moved a block north to a new building on this site at the corner of Maiden Lane. "The Old Swago" operated here until 1811, when it was abolished and replaced by the Washington St. Market.

59. **Scotch Presbyterian Church**
1756-1836 maps 4 and 5 - MC

A group of members of the First Presbyterian Church (see 45) of Scottish lineage disputed the use of the New England version instead of the Scotch version of the scriptures in the church. In 1754 they splintered from the First Church and built a new church on this site, which became known as the Scotch Presbyterian Church. It continued in active service until 1836, except for a period during the Revolutionary War when it was used as a barracks for the Hessian Soldiers.

Dr. John Mason was rector of the little church here on Queene (now Cedar) St. for 30 years, before resigning in 1810 to become Provost of Columbia University and Rector of the Third Associated Reformed Scotch Presbyterian Church across the street from the college (see 89).

60. **Livingston Sugar House**
1754-1840 maps 4 and 5 - MC

Livingston's was the largest of several sugar processors (see 54) in the city during the period. In addition to being a basic food, sugar was also the principal ingredient in rum. Livingston, like several of the larger buildings in the city, was used by the British to house Patriot prisoners during the Revolutionary War. However the conditions in this dungeon-like stone building were atrocious, and it became the most infamous of all the city's prisons. The cruel treatment, famine and disease suffered by the prisoners took its toll, and as many as six or eight were reported to have died each day. At times there were as many as 800 prisoners crammed into the five story building. Some brave local citizens of the neighborhood often risked their lives in an attempt to smuggle food into the prisoners.

The old Livingston Sugar House was demolished in 1840.

61. **Rutgers' Brew House**
about 1750-1810 map 4 - MC

In the mid 1700's Anthony Rutgers built a brewery on this site. Beer was a very popular and profitable commodity in the colonial period, especially among the city's Dutch population. In 1772, the brewery was doubled in size. During the Revolution the British used the building as a storehouse for their military supplies.

Rutgers lived in a large mansion on a beautiful large track of grounds northwest of the city. In 1765 his estate was bought by John Jones, who converted it into a plush resort "Ranelagh Gardens" (see 53), one of the city's most popular spas.

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62. **Nassau Street Theatre**
about 1750-1764 map 4 - MC

Built around 1750 near this site, the old Nassau Street Theatre was one of the first theatres offering professional actors in the city.

62. **First German Reformed Dutch Church**
about 1765-1824 map 4 - MC

The German Reformed Dutch Church was built near the site of the old Nassau St. Theatre in 1765. The building was sold to the South Baptist Church in 1822.

63. **Wesley Chapel - John Street Methodist Church**
1768-present maps 4 thru 7 - MC

The old John Street Meeting House with its Wesley Chapel is the oldest Methodist Society in continuous existence in America. Its first pastor, Philip Embury, opened the small rough stone building, with its fireplace in one corner and a gallery in the rear for "people of color" in 1768. The little chapel honored John Wesley who founded the Methodist religion in England.

Shortly after this first church was opened, a young itinerate minister, Francis Asbury, joined the congregation which was composed of mostly Irish Methodist immigrants. Asbury is credited with having more to do with the shaping of the religious society in America than any other man with the exception of John Wesley himself.

In the early days of the church the trustees bought a young Negro slave from a wealthy family on Beekman St. for 40 pounds of sterling, and proceeded to install young Peter Williams as the church's first sexton. Peter eventually married and earned his freedom after "keeping" the chapel with his wife. The couple was much respected, and eventually attracted a large following of their own people to the church. They later formed the first colored Methodist congregation in New York.

A second church was built on the site of the old church in 1817-1818. It had to be demolished when John Street was widened.

The present building, the third to be erected on the site, was built in 1841. It still contains some of the furnishings of the original chapel including an altar rail, a clock sent by Wesley himself, and a bible which belonged to the first pastor Philip Embury. The entrance stairway, flooring and pews in this church were preserved from the second church of 1817.

64. **The John Street Theatre**
1767-1798 map 4 - MC

The John St. Theatre which was located near this site just east of the Broad Way on the north side of John St., was opened in 1767 and soon became one of the city's premier theatres.

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George Washington attended many performances here. Washington enjoyed the theatre immensely, and when he attended a performance his appearance was publicly known and they became very formal affairs. He sat in a special box adorned with Washington's heraldry of arms. The stirring "Hail Columbia" was first rendered here by its composer Fayles, in the presence of Washington.

During the British occupation of the city, British army officers wrote and performed their own plays here, which of course were not very well attended by the patriots of the city. Also the first comedy by an American author, Royall Tyler's play "The Contrast," was presented here in 1787.

The old John St. Theatre was one of the more important of several that influenced the cultural development of early New York in becoming the future prestige theatrical center of the world. Today, "on Broadway" simply denotes the finest the dramatic and musical entertainment arts have to offer anywhere in the world.

65. Moravian Church about 1750-1880 maps 4 and 5 - TC

In Europe a Lutheran, Count Nikolaus Ludwig Von Zinzendorf, started a movement to rekindle what he considered to be a waning spiritual flame in Lutherans, and to a lesser extent in Dutch Reformists. From his estate in Saxony he began an outreach program which became the Moravian denomination of the church. In 1735 their missionary work among the Indians reached the colony of Georgia, in North America.

After the missionary work reached the bustling little city of New York in the late 1740's, the city's first Moravian Church was built near this site in about 1750. Jacob Van Der Bilt, the father of Cornelius (Commodore) Vanderbilt Who became one of most influential and wealthiest men in the country, was converted to the Moravian Faith, and passed the faith on to the Commodore and his descendants.

The original church was replaced by a second Moravian church which was built on this same site in 1829, and served the congregation until the late 1800's.

66. North Dutch Church 1769-1875 maps 4 and 5 - TC

John Harpendinck, whom John Street was named after, was a member of the middle Dutch Church. In 1723 he willed a portion of the property which was known as "Shoemaker's Pasture" to the church. About 45 years later, when the old South and Middle Dutch churches could no longer accommodate the burgeoning membership, a new North Dutch Church was erected on this site.

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Reverend Archibald Laidle, a minister from Holland was sent here to preach at the new North Church in the preferred language, English. Until that time, the services were conducted solely in Dutch in the two older churches. But the younger members of the new congregation preferred English, indicative of a growing tendency for the colonists to view themselves as an independent community with an identity of their own . . . no longer bound to the traditions of their homelands.

The cornerstone was laid on July 2, 1767, and the beautiful new edifice was dedicated on May 25, 1769. The imposing new structure was built of stone, and the internal woodwork and pews were more beautiful than any previously seen in this country.

The British used the building as a hospital, storehouse, and later as a prison during the occupation of the city during the Revolutionary War.

The building was again reopened as a church in December 1784. The beautiful old church was demolished in 1875, after having served the faithful well for over a hundred years.

67. First Presidential Mansion - Franklin House and St. George's (later Franklin) Square mid 1700's-mid 1800's maps 4 and 5 - TR

From about 1750 thru the early 1800's this area was known as St. George's Square, and from its early formation was one of the city's most fashionable of the several affluent neighborhoods around town (see 75).

Walter Franklin was a wealthy merchant who built a palatial home near the corner of Cherry St. at St. Georges Square. In 1789 his house at No. 3 Cherry St. was being used by the first Presidents of the Continental Congress, and in early April it was completely redecorated to serve as the first Presidential Mansion for our country's new first President George Washington. Washington had been elected by unanimous vote, and the City of New York became our nation's first capital. On April 23, 1789, just one week before his inauguration, members of both houses of Congress greeted Washington as he landed at Murray's Wharf at the foot of Wall St. (see map 4). Great crowds cheered the President Elect along the route as he was escorted to his new residence. Washington lived in the mansion until Feb. 1790, but considered it neither comfortable or convenient . . . situated "a great distance out of town," and moved to the McComb Mansion on lower Broadway (see 73).

In the early 1800's the area became known as Franklin Square, and remained one of the city's most fashionable neighborhoods. The old Franklin Mansion was again occupied by several prominent individuals, including Samuel Osgood who was President of the City Bank until 1813, and DeWitt Clinton. Clinton was Mayor of New York from 1803 to 1815, and Governor from 1817 to 1823, and again from 1825 until his death in 1828. Clinton was the chief sponsor of the Erie Canal project. John Hancock lived next door at No. 5 Cherry for a period, and the next house at No. 7 Cherry was the first house in the city to be illuminated by gas light. A few doors up at No. 27 Cherry was the home of Samuel Reid, who in 1818 designed the flag of the United

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States with 13 stripes and a blue field with a star for each state in the Union. Women of the neighborhood assisted Mrs. Reid in making the first flag in her dining room.

In addition to being the area in which the homes of some of the country's most prominent citizens were located, some of the nation's most famous and successful business establishments were also started here in Franklin Square. In 1817 James Harper was joined by his younger brother John in starting their new printing firm here in the square. The firm soon ventured into the publishing business as well, and went on to become one of the world's most successful publishing firms . . . Harper Brothers. And in 1818 Henry S. Brooks opened his first clothing store at the corner of Cherry and Catherine streets. Brooks Brothers became synonymous with the most fashionable in gentlemen's clothing. Aware that their location near the fashionable Franklin Square contributed to their success, they remained at this location for 45 years before moving uptown. Similarly, one of the nation's most famous and successful dry goods firms, Lord & Taylor, opened its original store at No. 47 Catherine St. in 1826 to take advantage of the fashionable Franklin Square trade area.

In the 1870's the old Franklin Square disappeared when the area had to be cleared to make room for building the approaches to the Brooklyn Bridge.

68. Distillhouses about 1700-early 1800's map 4 - TC

As can be seen by the number of distillhouses clustered around No. 68, many old New Yorkers were equally devoted to their churches on Sunday and their libations the rest of the week. St. George's Chapel sits comfortably in close proximity of the distillhouses operated by Robert Griffith (closest to Chapel), then John Burling's and brother James Burling's . . . and just across the street sits that of John Leake. But fear not for the neighborhood's supply of rum, as the next closest distillhouse is only two blocks away! There were at least seven distilleries and three or four breweries (several of which were quite large) in the little town of about 20,000 people around 1775. One might surmise that the reason there were also many churches in proportion to the size of the town, was because of the great need for spiritual redemption after overindulgence.

69. St. George's Chapel 1752-1868 maps 4 and 5 - TC

Trinity Church built its first chapel, St. George's, near this site on Cliff St. in 1752. George Washington attended a Christmas here at the chapel during his official residence at the Franklin House (see 67) in nearby St. George's Square.

In 1811 the chapel separated from Trinity Church. In 1814 St. George's was destroyed by fire, but was rebuilt again on the same site. It remained a house of worship until it was abandoned in 1868.

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70A. The Buttonwood Tree mid 1700's - mid 1800's maps 4 and 5 - MC

This is the site of the famous Buttonwood Tree which once stood near the site of what is now No. 60 Wall St. In the late 1700's merchants and brokers transacted much of their business out of doors, on the curbside beneath the large buttonwood tree on Wall St.

A more formal central marketplace became necessary when Congress issued \$80 million in bonds to pay for the war debt shortly after the American Revolution. On May 17, 1792, a group of 24 brokers got together and drew up the "Buttonwood Agreement," which became the formal beginning of the New York Stock Exchange. Thus one of today's oldest and most prominent financial institutions had its original charter dedicated to the old curbside meeting place . . . "under the buttonwood tree" (see 101).

"Buttonwood" is incidentally, the common name given the sycamore tree, derived from the seed balls which form in the late fall.

Today, the "60 Wall Tower" building rises 67 floors above this site.

70B. Tontine Coffee House 1792-mid 1800's maps 4 and 5 - MC

The merchants and brokers who had been meeting for years under the Buttonwood Tree (see 70 A) and in the old Merchants' Coffee House which was catty-corner across Wall St. from here (see 34), drew up the "Buttonwood Agreement" and started meeting regularly here in the Tontine Coffee House in 1792. The Tontine not only served an important role as a meeting place for the daily transaction of business, but also housed many of the city's principal insurance offices.

These early beginnings of the bustling activities of traders, merchants and insurance brokers established the area from Coffee House Slip all the way up Wall St. to Broadway, as the capital of the nation's principal financial and Insurance institutions.

71. Simmons' Tavern 1760's-early 1800's map 4 - MC

John Simmons popular Inn stood at the N.W. corner of Wall and Nassau Sts., later the site of the Bankers Trust Building. George Washington dined at Simmons after marching his troops into the city on the day it was evacuated by the defeated British in 1783. Also, the city's first mayor, James Duane, took his oath of office here in Feb. 1784, as the City Hall next door had been occupied by the British Forces during the War and was unfit for use at the time.

Washington Irving and John Simmons were close friends.

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72. **English Free School**
about 1740-1800 map 4 - MC

This was the site of the first English Free School, where children speaking the English language were educated.

Americans today tend to take our English-speaking heritage for granted, but the language of many nations and cultures were spoken in various parts of the city and throughout the colonies well into the late 1700's.

73. **Second Presidential Mansion - McComb House**
Feb.-Aug. 1790 map 4 - MC

In August 1790, George Washington left his first official residence, the Franklin house (see 67) at St. Georges Square, and moved into the McComb house near this site at No. 39 Broadway. Washington liked the convenience of this location, as it was within walking distance of Federal Hall on Wall St. During his brief stay at this location he was said to have enjoyed frequent walks around the Bowling Green and The Battery.

Washington lived here until the Capital was moved to Philadelphia. He made his last visit to Federal Hall on Aug. 12, 1790. He bid his last goodbye to the city from a barge leaving the wharf behind McComb's house, while salvos of a 13-gun salute roared from the nearby Battery. Thus, ended New York's very prominent role in our fight for independence and the establishment of our national government . . . the world's first Democracy!

74. **Battery Park**
1685-present maps 4 thru 7 - BC

This area along the very tip of the island originally took its name from a battery of cannons placed by order of Governor Dongan about 1685 along the narrow beach west and south of Fort James (see 1). The "Battery" extended all around the southern tip of the island, from the shoreline at the fort to the foot of Whitehall St.

Until about 1800 the banks of the Battery area pretty well conformed to the natural shoreline. From the days of the early Dutch settlers the tip of the shore was always a popular place. They gathered here to watch the seals playing on the rocks jutting out of the water (which the Indians called "Kapsee") just off the shore, and enjoy the magnificent view of the upper Bay, just as many New Yorkers and tourists do today.

In 1807 Castle Clinton was built about 300 ft. off what was the shoreline at that time. While it was originally built as a Fort, its guns were never fired in battle (see 76), and it has since been used for other functions.

In 1824 about 3 acres of fill were added to the shore area, and it has been extended into the water at various times since. By 1855 the landfill had extended the shoreline of Battery Park

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all the way out to include Castle Clinton, then known as Castle Garden, bringing the park to its present size of about 20 acres.

The Battery remains today as one of the city's most popular and famous attractions, a pleasant place from which to view the ships and boats scurrying about the harbor, much as our forefathers did back in days long past. One can only speculate on how many millions of dollars the land occupied by the park must be worth now, but even that amount is exceeded by the value of the park as a place of pure enjoyment and relaxation for the city's residents and hordes of tourist who visit the area.

75. **Walton House Mansion**
1752-mid 1800's maps 4 and 5 - TR

The Walton Mansion was built in 1752 by William Walton, a wealthy shipyard owner whose garden in the rear of the house extended all the way down to his shipyard on the waterfront at that time, just north of Peck's Slip. Walton's wharf and shipyard can be seen on several of the maps of the old city in the 1700's, and occasionally Walton House itself is shown.

The Waltons were one of early New York's most wealthy and socially prominent families. For more than 30 years Walton House was known for its lavish and elegant parties and social affairs. To be a guest in the Walton home was to have made it in New York society.

The three story mansion became known as the most handsome home in New York, and indeed one of the most beautiful homes in the entire country. It was built of yellow Holland brick, with a tile roof featuring a double row of balustrades spanning the entire roof front. The front entrance featured a handsome portico, with fluted columns supporting a canopy with richly carved Walton family armorial crests. Walton House sat among many beautiful magnificent homes which were built in the late 1700's in the neighborhood. The neighborhood was known as St. George's Square until the early 1800's (see 67), and then became known as Franklin Square, but continued to remain one of the city's most fashionable areas until the mid 1800's. When construction of the approaches for the Brooklyn Bridge began in the 1870's, Franklin Square disappeared, and all the fashionable homes were moving to new neighborhoods uptown.

As for Walton House, in 1784 it became the first home of the Bank of New York. After the bank moved to Hanover Square in 1787 it became a boarding house.

76. **Castle Clinton - later Castle Garden, N.Y. Aquarium, now Castle Clinton Nat. Ml.**
1811-present maps 5 thru 7 - BC

Originally built as a military fortification because of the rising tensions between America and the British, the "West Battery" as it was originally called, was completed in 1811, just preceding the war of 1812. The old fortification was situated on an island about 200 ft. offshore, connected by a wooden causeway to the shore. However, its guns were never used during the war, and were fired only on commemorative occasions. Its architect was John McComb's (see 73) son.

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After the war it was renamed Castle Clinton, in honor of the honorable De Witt Clinton, the city's former mayor and governor of the state. In 1824 3 acres were added to the Battery Park frontage which extended the shore somewhat but the "Castle" still remained an island. That same year it was again renamed Garden and was redecorated and converted to an entertainment center. With its landscaping of flowers and shrubs it became like a European "beer garden," raised bandstand and all. It quickly became popular with audiences who delighted in the many types of entertainment and affairs held in the spacious arena. Many famous people attended and were introduced to the public in the Garden, including Samuel Morse, Andrew Jackson and the Marquis de Lafayette.

A roof was added in 1845, further converting it to a theatre more dedicated to the performing arts. In 1850 P.T. Barnum (see 83) staged the first American performance of the "Swedish Nightingale" Jenny Lind. Lind, who was probably the most famous singer on the European Continent, was almost overcome by the tremendous welcoming ovation given her by the appreciative crowd of more than 6000 people.

In 1855 the land between the island and the shore had been completely filled in, and Castle Garden underwent still another change. Its doors were closed to the American public, and it was reopened as an immigration depot for screening, providing medical care, information and help to the thousands of foreigners who were coming to live in America. The operation continued until 1889, when the Immigration Service became a function of the federal government. During its 34 years of operation the Castle Garden facility processed in excess of eight million desperate and needy people, helping them for a new start at a better life in America.

In 1896 the Garden was again remodeled and converted to the nation's first public aquarium . . . the New York Aquarium. As the nation's first facility for viewing aquatic life it was an instant hit and remained popular until the mid 1940's. Falling into a state of disrepair, the structure was almost doomed for demolition, when in 1946 a group of concerned citizens convinced the Congress in Washington to declare it Castle Clinton National Monument . . . but by then little else but the walls remained of the original old structure. Nevertheless, the old "Castle" now holds a permanent place in the city's and our nation's history.

77. Merchants Exchange - Custom House - now Citibank 1820's-present maps 5 thru 7 - MC

The first Merchants Exchange was built near this site at 55 Wall St. in the early 1820's. It was built by a group of merchants who were members of an organization dating back to 1670, when they conducted their business in an open sided shelter near the little bridge which crossed the canal (see 14) at the foot of what is now Broad St. at Bridge St. (see 30).

The New building here on Wall St. was one of the city's most impressive structures of the time. The three-story building featured a facade with expansive entrance steps leading up to three huge two-story columns at the front of a great entrance lobby. The spacious three story interior had a huge domed ceiling in the entrance rotunda, and a vaulted ceiling in the main room off

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The first Merchants Exchange was completely destroyed in the devastating fire of 1835 (see map 5), along with 600 other buildings in the 16 block area lying south of Wall St. and east of Broadway.

In 1837 a new, even more magnificent building was erected on this same Wall St. site. It too was a three-story structure, of an Ionic temple design similar to Federal Hall. It featured a facade of 16 huge two-story granite columns, and an imposing domed great hall. Stock merchants and brokers kept a room here (see 101).

In 1839 the Bank of Commerce of New York, which later merged with the Guaranty Trust Co. in 1929, opened in the Exchange Bldg. This marked the beginning of one of the nation's most important banking services.

The second Merchants Exchange Bldg. was later used as the U.S. Custom House, until the service was moved into the new Custom House by the Bowling Green (see 1) on Broadway in 1907.

In 1907 the building was remodeled and additional upper floors were added. The building is now the home of Citibank (formerly the First National City Bank) and remains one of New York's most impressive old buildings.

78. Bank of New York - nation's oldest Commercial Bank 1797-present maps 5 thru 7 - MC

Founded by Alexander Hamilton in 1784, 5 years before the adoption of the American Constitution, New York's first bank was to remain its only bank for the next 15 years. The Bank of New York, or simply "The Bank" as it was then known as, remains today the nation's oldest commercial bank.

Hamilton was only 27 when he wrote the bank's constitutional bylaws. Five years later he became our nation's first Secretary of the Treasury. He was an intelligent and skillful leader in matters of finance and politics, and shaped and defined the financial policy by which our government continues to operate to this very day. Hamilton was killed in a duel with Aaron Burr, after charging Burr with engaging in corrupt banking practices in 1804 (see 79). His body lies in the Trinity Churchyard on Broadway.

The Bank of New York built their first building on this site at the corner of Wall and William Streets in 1797. In 1927 it was replaced by the present building with its Georgian style cupola on top, a familiar landmark in Manhattan's bustling financial district.

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79. **The Manhattan Company**
early 1800's-1920's maps 5 and 6 - MC

In 1799 Aaron Burr and his associates formed the Manhattan Company (also known as the Manhattan Water Co.), the city's first public utility Corporation. Burr, a member of the New York State Assembly, was aware of the city's growing demand for a safe and dependable supply of water. He seized the opportunity to form a corporation which would not only meet that demand, but also provide an opportunity to gain special banking privileges for him and his political party. They included subtle clauses in the company's charter which also gave them the right to form a bank, which later became the Bank of Manhattan Co.

The original office of the Manhattan Co. was erected near this site at what is now 40 Wall St. in the early 1800's. A reservoir was built on Chambers St. (see 88), and several miles of wooden distribution piping was laid. But it soon became apparent that the primary interest of the company was not in serving the public's need for water, but in using the company's capital for banking and investment activities for personal and political gain. Alexander Hamilton (see 78) charged Burr with corruption of the company's banking privileges, and a great deal of hostility ensued between the two men. Burr challenged Hamilton to a duel which resulted in the death of Hamilton in 1804.

79. **Bank of Manhattan - then Manufacturer's Hanover Trust**
1929-present map 7 - MC

The 71 story building which was built here at 40 Wall St. in 1929, was during its construction planned to be the world's tallest building. However the building, which originally housed the Bank of Manhattan, never held the record when it was opened in 1929. It was outdone by the Chrysler Bldg. which was being constructed at the same time. The original Chrysler Bldg. structure was planned at 925 ft., 2 ft. shorter than the secretly planned height of 927 ft. for the new Bank of Manhattan Bldg. here at 40 Wall St. When the topped-off height of this building was learned, Walter Chrysler had a team of steelworkers secretly construct a 123 ft. spire inside the dome of his new building. The spire, when attached thru a hole in the dome, brought the height of his new building to 1048 ft. when completed in 1930 . . . 64 ft. higher than the Eiffel Tower, which until that time reigned as the world's tallest structure. But Chrysler's victory was short lived, as in the following year of 1931 the Empire State Bldg. soared above all of them at 1250 ft.!

In subsequent years the Manhattan Company was merged with the Chase Bank, and became known as the Chase Manhattan Bank (see 116), whose lineage therefor goes all the way back to Aaron Burrs original Manhattan Company.

The building at 40 Wall St. is now occupied by the Manufacturer's Hanover Trust Co.

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80. **United States Sub-Treasury - then U.S. Assay Office**
1826-1915 maps 5 and 6 - MC

In 1822 the old Samuel Verplank Mansion which stood near this site at 32 Wall St. from the late 1700's was torn down to make room for a new United States Branch Bank. In 1826 the U.S. Sub Treasury opened on this site in an impressive new building featuring a beautiful marble facade of Greek Revival design.

The building was later used as the U.S. Assay Office until it was torn down in 1915.

80. **Seamen's Bank for Savings**
1919-present map 7 - MC

The Seamen's Bank for Savings was built on this site at 32 Wall St. in 1919 on the foundations of the old U.S. Assay Office bldg., and retains its old marble facade and bullion vaults. One of the city's first banks for savings, it was originally chartered to help seamen who usually squandered their wages on the more lively pleasures of the city upon returning to port after weeks or months at sea. The bank encouraged them to save their money for their future security.

The present bank contains an important collection of nautical artifacts.

81. **New York's First Public Library**
1793-unknown map 5 - MC

In 1772 a charter was granted by King George III to formalize a library operated by a group founded in 1754. These public minded citizens had been depositing their books in a room in the city hall so that others might share their treasured books. They continued to operate in a more or less informal manner until 1793, when they built their first formal library building near this site on the corner of Joseph Winter's estate at Cedar and Nassau streets. Thus the "New York Society Library," as the original group founded in 1754 was known as, became the foundation on which the city's current extensive library system was built.

82. **Shakespeare Hotel**
about 1800-unknown map 5 - TC

The old tavern in the Shakespeare Hotel was one of the city's most famous eating places in the early 1800's. This was the favorite gathering place of New York's literati, as well as politicians, merchants and performers from the nearby Park Theatre.

The National Guard of New York was first organized here in 1824.

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83. **Scudder's American Museum - then Barnum's American Museum**
1830-1865 maps 5 and 6 - TC

The original American Museum was built in 1830, close to the site of the old Spring Garden which dated back to 1712. The new five story marble building was spacious and perfect for a wide variety of show material and displays.

In 1841 the museum was purchased by the renowned showman Phineas Taylor Barnum. It opened in 1842 as Barnum's American Museum, featuring an unbelievable collection of wild life and relics, an assortment of really strange people, including the world's most famous midget "General Tom Thumb," and a theatre. It became such an immediate success that it was enlarged the following year . . . and again in 1850.

The old museum at the intersection of Broadway and old Chatham St. (now Park Row) at Ann St., was the scene of many exciting events until it was completely gutted by fire in 1865. The New York Herald Building was built on the site of the old museum in 1866.

P.T. Barnum went on to even greater heights by organizing the "Greatest Show on Earth," a circus which opened in Brooklyn in 1871. In 1881 he was joined by James A. Bailey, his foremost rival, and the monumental circus shows they produced became the sensation of the world. Barnum died in 1891, and in 1907 the circus was sold to the Ringling Brothers. It remains today as the world famous "Ringling Brothers / Barnum and Bailey's Greatest Show on Earth."

83. **New York Herald Building - then Western Electric Bldg.**
1866-present map 7 - TC

In 1866 James Gordon Bennett built the New York Herald Building on the site of the old American Museum. The Herald became one of New York's truly distinguished newspapers, and the area along Park Row in which the building was located became famous in its own rights as "Printing House Square" (see 94).

The Herald Bldg. was later torn down to make way for the present building on the site, the Western Electric Building.

84. **Park Theatre**
1798-1848 map 5 - TC

In the early to mid 1800's Chatham St. (now Park Row) at Ann St. was the center of the theatrical district of the city. The Park Theatre was by far the most distinguished and popular of the many early theatres and playhouses in the neighborhood. The Park opened in 1798, and soon became the favorite of the city's most prominent theatregoers. It had a rear entrance on the small street which ran between Ann and Beekman Streets, and which still retains the name "Theatre Alley."

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The original building was destroyed by fire in 1820, but a new, more spacious and sumptuous building was immediately built on the same site, and opened in 1821. In addition to the main seating level, the new theatre had 4 tiers of balcony seats, and a beautiful domed ceiling over the seating area. The new "Park Theatre" was undoubtedly New York's finest and most fashionable theatre, and featured the world's best known performers.

In 1848 it too was destroyed by fire, and never reopened.

84. **Park Row (or Syndicate) Building**
1898-present map 7 - TC

Topped by its distinctive twin towers, The Park Row or Syndicate Building as it is also known as, reigned from the time of its completion in 1898 until 1908 as the world's tallest building.

85. **Astor House Hotel**
1836-1915 maps 5 and 6 - TC

John Jacob Astor was the founder of the prominent New York family still legendary for the wealth and influence they amassed in the 1700's and 1800's. He was a German immigrant who came to America in 1763, entered the fur trading business and organized trading activities from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Ocean. John Jacob made huge profits by trading furs with China and Japan for tea. His American Fur Company was this country's first business monopoly. He then parlayed his profits into an even greater success in the real estate market . . . acquiring and selling property in New York City.

In 1836, he built the plush Astor House Hotel, which quickly became the city's most famous hostelry. It pioneered such extravagant conveniences as gaslight and bathrooms on each of its five floors. The building was designed by Isaiah Rogers, who also designed the magnificent Merchants Exchange (see 77) built in 1837, and it featured a 2-story portico with 4 large columns at the entrance facing Broadway. The fact that it was located just across the street from the new City Hall and the heart of the theatre district (see 84) certainly helped its popularity.

By the 1870's lower Broadway was no longer a fashionable area and the popularity of the hotel declined. It was destroyed in 1915, just three years after Astor's great-grandson John Jacob IV perished at sea along with 1512 others in the "Titanic" disaster.

85. **The Transportation Building**
1918-present map 7 - TC

The Transportation Building which presently occupies the site of the old Astor House Hotel was built in 1918.

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86. City Hall 1811-present maps 5 thru 7 - TC

In 1800 the old City Hall on Wall St. was becoming badly deteriorated (see 41) and it was decided to build a grand new one on "The Common," the triangular park between Broadway and Chatham (now Park Row) at their intersection. A contest was held for designing the finest city hall in the nation. It was won by John McComb Jr., who also designed Castle Clinton (see 76), and Joseph Mangin, and construction began in 1802. The magnificent new building was officially opened in 1811. McComb personally supervised the \$1 a day laborers, for which he received a generous \$4 a day.

The completed building was considered to be one of the nation's finest government offices indeed . . . an elegant example of the federal style design, so popular during the period.

In 1858 the cupola, roof and parts of the Governor's room were damaged by fire, and the building began a course of gradual deterioration. By 1900 it had become so badly run down that only the efforts of a concerned citizens group saved it from being completely demolished. Fortunately, in the early 1900's a major restoration program was undertaken.

Many notable ceremonial events were held at the hall and in the park, including the funeral and laying at rest of Abraham Lincoln after his assassination in 1865. During the 2-day event, some 120,000 mourners walked past the coffin, in tribute to the great statesman and healer of our nation's wounds.

New York City Hall remains today as one of the country's finest examples of the federal style of architecture, and probably the nation's best known City Hall.

87. Almshouse 1736-1854 map 5 - TC

The old Poor House was built near this site in 1736 to house the city's poor and indigent. The city's famous Bellevue Hospital had its early beginning here as an infirmary which became the Bellevue Establishment . . . serving all who needed care, regardless of race, religion or ability to pay.

During the Revolutionary war the British used it as a soldier's barracks. In 1790 the old Tammany Museum (which later became Scudder's American Museum) (see 83) occupied its west wing. And the prestigious New York Historical Society had its beginnings there in 1804. In 1812 the services moved to a new building, and it became a private New York Institution until it was destroyed by fire in 1854.

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87. New York City "Tweed" Courthouse 1861-present maps 6 and 7 - TC

The three-story marble court house which was formally opened in 1867 became known to local New Yorkers as the "Tweed Courthouse," after "Boss" Tweed who stole huge amounts of money during its construction. Tweed was the most powerful individual in the Democratic Party during the ten years it was being built. The cost of the building was originally estimated at \$250,000, and that amount was approved by the building commission. But corruption and outright thievery during its construction propelled the final cost to \$12 million . . . with Tweed and his cronies pocketing over \$8 million of it (see 92).

Like City Hall (see 86), by the mid 1970's the building had fallen into such a state of disrepair that it was slated for demolition. But preservationists convinced the city administration to forgo the high costs of tearing it down, and so it appears safe at least for the near future. In fact some restoration has been in progress.

88. Manhattan Company Reservoir 1800-1890's maps 5 and 6 - TC

The city's first water reservoir was constructed by the Manhattan Company near this site in 1800. A distribution system of wooden pipes was constructed throughout the city for delivering the water to homes and buildings.

The Manhattan Co. was organized to provide a safe and dependable supply of water to the city's inhabitants, or at least that was the stated purpose for the founding of the company. But in truth that turned out to be of secondary importance to its founder Aaron Burr and his fellow cronies of the State Assembly (see 79).

The city had since the time of the early Dutch settlers been getting much of its water from the 60ft. deep body of fresh water called "The Collect Pond," which was essentially spring-fed and reliable (see 50, and maps 2 thru 4). But as the town grew, so did the demand for good water, and some of the wells being used were contaminated, and some water was being taken from impure springs. In 1798 a fever swept the city, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of the city's inhabitants. And so, even the city government was only too eager to participate in Burr's Manhattan Co. in hopes that it would solve the city's growing water problem.

As the reservoir was being constructed, restrictions on the use of the Collect Pond were being imposed, as it had always been a popular place for swimming, fishing, boating and ice skating . . . and yes, even bathing in the spring waters.

But the demand for land space was increasing so rapidly that within a few years after the reservoir was completed, they began filling in the entire fresh water pond . . . and by 1811 the old Collect Pond was little more than a fond memory in the minds of many New Yorkers. The reservoir itself stood for almost 100 years before being demolished to make room for the proposed Hall of Records / Surrogate's Court Building.

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88. Surrogate's Court / Hall of Records Building 1911-present map 7 - TC

Formally known as the Surrogate's Court, the present building on the site of the former Manhattan Co. Reservoir was also known as the Hall of Records Bldg. The extremely elegant and costly building was started in 1899 and took almost 12 years to complete. The facade of white Maine granite and imposing sculptures and a frieze of eight prominent early New Yorkers above the front portico compliment the true Grandeur of the building. Inside, its marble walls are enhanced with solid mahogany and English oak paneling, and the centerpiece of the lobby is a grand staircase, which along with beautiful fireplaces and other embellishments makes it a truly magnificent structure.

89. Third Associated Reformed Scotch Presbyterian Church 1812-1842 map 5 - TL

The Third Reformed Presbyterian Church was built in 1812 near what are now lots 41 thru 47 Murray St., across from the Columbia College campus. Its rector was John M. Mason, who in 1810 became Provost of Columbia College after resigning his 30-year tenure as rector of the old Scotch Presbyterian Church on Cedar St. (see 59).

In 1842 the handsome brownstone structure was taken down stone by stone and completely reassembled on the site of what is now 8th. St. and Lafayette Place.

90. St. Peter's Catholic Church 1786-present maps 5 thru 7 - TC

Since Roman Catholicism was outlawed in England and their colonies, it was not until we had gained our independence that Catholics were permitted to build houses of worship in New York. In 1785 a Catholic congregation purchased this site at Church and Barclay streets from Trinity Parish, and in 1786 built the city's first Roman Catholic Church here.

The original St. Peter's was a rather modest brick structure, but was well attended by a grateful parish, eager to have their own place of worship. In 1837 the old church was declared unsafe, and a fine new structure was built on its site.

Opened in 1838, the present building is an imposing granite structure, with a portico featuring six massive columns in the Greek revival style. The church continues to serve today as Manhattan's oldest Roman Catholic Church, and the surrounding burial grounds are the city's oldest Catholic cemetery.

91. Thomas Jefferson's Residence 1790-unknown map 5 - MC

When Jefferson became the nation's first Secretary of State in 1790, he came here to what was then the nation's first capital, New York, and resided at a house at this site of what is now 57

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Maiden Lane. President George Washington lived about seven blocks away at St. George's Square (see 67). Like Washington, Jefferson was an aristocratic landowner from Virginia who felt compelled to involve himself in a career of public service to the fledgling nation they had helped to create.

Jefferson was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, and later went on to become our third president. He applied his keen sense of duty and intelligence throughout his political career towards the establishment and securing of liberty for his fellow countrymen.

Jefferson regarded Alexander Hamilton (see 78), then Secretary of the Treasury, as an enemy of Republican government. Hamilton on the other hand, considered Jefferson a demagogic catalyst for the formation of our two party political system.

There can be no doubt that Thomas Jefferson, like Washington and Hamilton, played a major role in the shaping of our young nation, and that many of their historic deeds took place right here on the tip of the little island that came to be Manhattan.

92. Tammany Hall Building 1811-1867 map 5 - TC

"Tammany Hall" became the popular name of the Democratic political party structure in New York City about 1800. While the name applied principally to the executive committee who wielded and abused the power and influence over the administration of state and national affairs, it was commonly used when referring to the entire Democratic organization for New York City and County.

The original Tammany Hall organization was founded in 1789 by William Mooney, a New York City upholsterer, as "The Society of St. Tammany," a few days after the inauguration of George Washington as our country's first president. Mooney became a political activist intent on building a national society which would be democratic in principle and action, to counter the growing influence of a group of aristocratic leaders in the state with centralist and monarchical leanings. The society took its name after a Delaware Indian chief, Tamanend, who was famed for his wisdom, benevolence and love of freedom. Its officers were given the title used for Indian chiefs, sachems, with the society's chief being the Grand Sachem.

During its early years the society functioned as essentially only a voice of the middle class in opposition to the powerful aristocratic centralist party, but it gradually lost its nonpolitical character by about 1800. In 1805, in a move to present the appearance of a separation of its social and political functions, The Society of St. Tammany obtained a charter of incorporation from the legislature as a "benevolent and charitable body," and the political Democratic Party became a separate branch. In reality however, the society's sachems still controlled the political mechanism.

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The political party grew rapidly to include several thousand members, penetrating every section of the city, and wielding great political influence. And as most often happens, with unbridled power comes unbridled corruption.

The society was originally meeting in Martling's Tavern across from the Brick Presbyterian Church (see 55), but in 1811 they moved into their new headquarters here in the new Tammany Hall Building on the southeast corner of Park Row and Frankfort streets. The political clout, and even prestige of the society became evident, when in 1836 its grand sachem, Martin Van Buren, became the eight President of the United States. By this time, corruption within the controlled workings of the party was not only tolerated but essential to maintain the muscle the machine had achieved.

In 1868, William M. (Boss) Tweed became the Grand Sachem, and instituted complete boss domination of the society and the party. The city of New York was plundered for more than \$200,000,000 under Tweed (see 87), who never himself held political office. Tweed eventually wound up in jail, where he died, but most of his cronies managed to retain their freedom and their wealth.

Eventually, as Democratic candidates began running on independent anti-tammany tickets, the machine's control over New York City's politics began to diminish. But not before the name "Tammany Hall" had become synonymous with corrupt politics throughout the nation.

92. New York Sun Building 1868-1905 maps 6 and 7 - TC

In 1867 the old Tammany Hall Building was enlarged and modernized, and in 1868 it became the home of the New York Sun newspaper. The Sun was founded in 1833, and was the city's first penny newspaper. Its founder Benjamin H. Day invented a process for reproducing printed matter which is still known as Ben Day. In 1840, the old Sun made newspaper history by issuing a special edition with the news of the burning and sinking of the steamboat "Lexington" featuring an actual printed illustration of the event which had been made by N. Currier . . . forerunner of the famed printing firm of Currier and Ives (see 95).

During this period this area along Park Row was known as "Newspaper Row," and the intersection where Park Row and Nassau came together at Spruce St. was known as "Printing House Square" (see 94).

93. Brooklyn Bridge (and approaches) 1883-present maps 6 and 7 - TC-TR

Undoubtably one of the world's most remarkable and famous structures, the Brooklyn Bridge stands today as a tribute to the intelligence, dedication and determination of its creators. The original design of the bridge was made by a German born genius who immigrated from Prussia, John A. Roebling. He started the design in 1867 and obtained the approval and financing for its construction, but died before the work began.

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Roebling's 32 year old son, Washington A. Roebling then assumed the task of finishing the design and building the bridge. A genius in his own rights, young Roebling was assisted in his efforts by Wilhelm Hildenbrand, another German engineer only in his twenties. Hildenbrand was also an engineering genius, having at the tender young age of 22 designed the great arched roof for the train shed of Vanderbilt's new Grand Central Depot. Together, the two young men devoted the next 16 years of their lives to the creation of the great bridge.

The bridge provided the first land link between the lower tip of the island and Brooklyn across the East River. It was not only the world's first steel suspension bridge, but is still considered by many to be the world's most beautiful. No one had ever built anything like it before, and virtually all of the machinery and equipment for its construction had to be especially designed and built for the job.

Once under way, the construction took 14 years to complete, and during the last ten years of it Roebling himself became an invalid from the bends caused by his descents in the pressurized tower caissons. During the entire period he continued to supervise the construction activities by observing the progress through a telescope from his window . . . and using his wife Emily to communicate his instructions to the working crew.

Twenty workers lost their lives during its construction, but the great bridge was finally completed and opened on May 24, 1883. A great celebration marked its opening, and 14 tons of fireworks spewed forth from the tops of the towers for more than an hour resembling the eruption of a mighty volcano. The bridge spans 1595 over the water, and has a total length of 5989 feet. Each of the four 16 inch cables supporting the bridge contains 3515 miles of stranded wire. The towers are 276 ft. above high water, and the arched roadbed is 119 ft. above the water at the towers.

To enhance travel across the bridge the Roeblings designed handsome tall Victorian style terminals which were built at the foot of the approaches at each end to accommodate commuters who rode the new bridge trains back and forth between Manhattan and Brooklyn. Twelve pedestrians were killed in a panic when people on the crowded bridge somehow feared the bridge was collapsing a week after it opened. And in 1884, P. T. Barnum (see 83) took 21 elephants across to prove its stability and safety.

Now well over a hundred years old, the Brooklyn Bridge still remains one of our nation's most famous landmarks, having appeared in literally thousands of drawings, photographs and movies depicting the New York scene. And who among us has never heard the old cliché . . . "if you believe that one, I'd like to sell you the Brooklyn Bridge." The old bridge seems as durable as the city itself.

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94. **Printing House Square - Newspaper Row**
mid 1800's-early 1900's map 6 - TC

A statue of Benjamin Franklin now stands amidst the traffic at the intersection of Park Row with Nassau at Spruce St. to commemorate the time when this area was dominated by the printing industry . . . and became known as "Printing House Square." In 1842 New York had a population of about 350,000 people, and 15 daily newspapers . . . which must have surely made them the most informed citizens in the world.

Most of the buildings along Park Row above Nassau and Spruce across from City Hall Park (see 51), housed the city's great newspaper publishers during this period. The New York Times, Tribune, Sun, Herald, World and Daily News among others were here in this area. "Newspaper Row," as the stretch of buildings along Park Row became known as, extended into the area taken by the ramps to the Brooklyn Bridge (see 93). This area represented perhaps the greatest concentration of printing history and skills ever amassed at any time . . . anywhere, and the printers and publishers that were here during this period had a great and lasting influence on all Americans.

The Associated Press, which went on to become the greatest news gathering and dissemination body in the world, was formed by the publishers here in 1848.

95. **Currier and Ives**
1864-1907 map 6 - TC

The office, printing shop and salesroom of Nathaniel Currier and James Merritt Ives was here in a five-story building near this site from 1864 to 1907. Currier, who had been running his own little printing shop since 1835 at the age of 22 (see 92) had been an apprentice since the age of 13. In the 1850's he employed James Merritt Ives as a bookkeeper, but he became so indispensable that within a few years he was made a partner of the firm. All the material printed by the firm after 1857 bore the joint imprint of the now famous "Currier & Ives." In 1864 they opened this shop at 33 Spruce St., and the colored lithographed prints they produced and sold have become synonymous with our image of 19th. century Americana.

Currier and Ives prided themselves on being the makers of cheap, but frameable quality colored prints for the popular market, and their artists were among the country's best. By the time they liquidated the business in 1907, they had created some 7000 different prints of a wide range of subjects which found their way into nearly every home in America. Today the prints are even more revered than when they were first issued at a price ranging from \$2.50 to \$3. They now command prices ranging from several hundred dollars for smaller prints in good condition, to several thousand for important large prints.

Thanks to Currier & Ives, the American people have inherited a beautiful and priceless link to life in the 19th. century, which can be preserved and passed on to our children and their children's children.

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96. **First Bell Telephone Exchange**
1879-unknown map 6 - TC

Alexander Graham Bell first introduced his "speaking telephone" to an audience at the St. Dennis Hotel at Broadway and 11th. St. in New York in 1877. No one present at the little ceremony could ever imagine the phenomenal effect it would have on the future course of communications and the lives of future generations throughout the world (see 99).

In 1879 the first Bell Telephone Exchange was opened near this site at what is now 82 Nassau St. Once again New York introduces another "first" of major importance to the entire world . . . one that was destined to usher in a whole new era, after which the world would become an increasingly smaller place.

But real progress seldom comes cheaply, and the advent of the telephone age was no exception. Within a few years the streets were becoming cluttered with pole after pole, strung with layers of wires and cables . . . like a giant web entangling the city. As New York led the world into the new age of instant communications, many older residents couldn't help wondering if it was all worth it.

97. **United States Post Office**
1875-early 1900's map 6 - TC

In 1875 a new United States Post Office was completed here on the southern tip of City Hall Park (see 51), at the intersection of Broadway and Park Row. It was a huge and very ornate five-story building, with tiers of columns all around it, from the ground level to the roof. The exterior was perhaps one of the "busiest" ever designed into a major public building. Setbacks and offsets were prominent features of every face of the building, and a jumble of details around the entire perimeter of the roof added to the poor design. Unfortunately, the building which most New Yorkers considered distasteful and ugly, occupied one of the most prominent locations in the city.

Unfortunately (or in this case perhaps fortunately), while the mammoth building was extremely costly to build, it was inadequate to handle the city's burgeoning mail load almost from the day it opened. In the early 1900's the building was destroyed, and the site again became part of the park grounds.

98. **American Express Company's first office**
1850-unknown map 6 - top edge, TL area

A former railroad conductor, William F. Harnden, originated the express business in America with his service between New York and Boston in 1839. Prior to that time all parcels which traveled between cities were carried by private individuals. George Washington appointed the Postal Services first Postmaster General in 1789, when New York was the nation's first capital (see 41 and 67), and mail delivery goes all the way back to 1775, when the Continental Congress appointed Benjamin Franklin head of the American Postal System. Still, it was not until

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the advent of the privately owned express companies that parcels or material of any size and bulk could be shipped from city to city.

Soon after Harnden introduced his express business, many competitors emerged and the business became quite competitive. In 1850, three of them merged and became the formidable American Express Company. Henry Wells, a former steamboat operator on the New York waterfront who worked for Harnden for several months, became the senior partner and President of the new firm. William Fargo, who had worked for Wells and eventually became a partner in Wells' old company, became the new company's Secretary. The third partner was John Butterfield, who merged his former "Butterfield's Overland Express Co." into the new enterprise, and became its Superintendent. In 1850 they operated out of their new offices in a site near here on the north side of this block bordered by Hudson, Jay and Staple streets . . . just beyond the top edge of map VI.

The new company soon dominated the nation's express business. But Wells and Fargo wanted to cash in on the new gold boom taking place in the west. Gold was being shipped to U.S. government mints in the east to be coined, then shipped back west again. Wells and Fargo saw this as a lucrative business opportunity for the American Express Co., but met stubborn resistance from Butterfield and other members of the board who felt the bonanza in the west would soon play out. While the two men still wanted to keep their positions and investments in the American Express Co., they had no intention of abandoning their desire for undertaking a new business venture in the west.

In 1852, Wells and Fargo met with other financial backers in the old Astor House Hotel (see 85), and formed a new express company . . . "Wells, Fargo & Co.". This enterprise was dedicated to serving California and the western frontier. They opened their first western office of Wells, Fargo & Co. in San Francisco that same year, and the rest of the story became history.

Perhaps no other private enterprise has become so inextricably linked to the saga of the old west as that of the rambling express stage coaches and trains of Wells, Fargo & Co. . . . the colorful old company founded in little old New York.

99. Franklin House Hotel 1817-1873 map 5 - TC

During the mid and late 1800's many married as well as single New Yorkers chose to live in the many fashionable boarding houses which were rather plentiful in lower Manhattan during this period. No doubt the high cost of real estate and inconvenience of traveling to and from the area enhanced the appeal of hotel living.

In 1817, David Haight, who had been in the harness business on lower Broadway, opened his new Franklin House Hotel on the northwest corner of Broadway and Dey St. It soon became a popular resort and boarding house. By the 1830's it was the city's most fashionable hotel, but soon to be eclipsed by John Jacob Astor's fabulous "Astor House Hotel" (see 85) built two

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blocks north in 1836. But the old four-story Franklin House remained popular until it closed in 1850. The following year it was remodeled for commercial use until it was demolished in 1873

99. Western Union Building 1875-1915 map 6 - TC

About 37 years after Samuel F.B. Morse, who had spent his earlier years teaching art at the University of the City of New York, first introduced his new telegraph, construction began on the new Western Union Telegraph Co. Building on the site of the old Franklin House Hotel on Broadway at Dey St. The firm opened their impressive new headquarters in 1875. Soon telegraph lines were strung throughout the streets of New York, as the telegraph represented the only form of communication by which messages could be sent and received quickly.

The building was demolished in the 1910's to make room for the new AT&T Building on this site.

99. American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) Building 1917-present map 7 - TC

In 1877, Alexander Graham Bell demonstrated his "speaking telephone" to an audience gathered at the St. Dennis Hotel in New York. The following year the New York telephone directory listed 252 subscribers, and in 1879 the Bell Co. opened its first exchange at 82 Nassau St. (see 96). The telephone became the amazing instrument of instant communication, but soon the streets of the old city became a maze of wires and cables, and New Yorkers began wondering whether or not it was all worth it.

In 1917 AT&T opened its new building on the site of the old Western Union Building here at 195 Broadway, and a plaque of Alexander Graham Bell adorns the lobby.

AT&T now dominates the communications industry worldwide.

100. Equitable Building 1870-1912 and 1915-present maps 6 and 7 - MC

The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States was originally founded in 1859. They built their first headquarters on this site at 120 Broadway in 1870, which was destroyed by fire in 1912.

A new Equitable building was erected on this same site and opened in 1915. The new forty-story building is considered to represent all the things a skyscraper should not be. It fills almost the entire ground site, and rises to the fortieth floor without a setback. Consequently, the adjacent streets and offices in neighboring buildings are dark and gloomy for lack of daylight. The Equitable building has the dubious distinction of being responsible for the city's "Zoning Resolution of 1916" passed the year after the building's completion. This law requires buildings to be constructed with setbacks of exterior walls above certain heights, thus many subsequent

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skyscrapers became "pyramidal" in effect. Once they had reached a height where they were reduced to 25% of the base site, they could then continue with a straight rise to unlimited heights. The law was later amended to permit a straight up rise after a 40% reduction to the base site. The law also established limits on the proportion of building size to base size, and offered a bonus for builders who include a plaza space.

101. New York Stock Exchange 1864-present maps 6 and 7 - MC

A direct descendent of the financial group who conducted their business "under the buttonwood tree" (see 70A & 70B), the roots of the exchange date back to 1792 . . . almost as old as the nation itself. The exchange became organized shortly after the American Revolution as a central body for marketing \$80 million in federal bonds issued to help pay for the war. The organization gained additional stature because of its roll in the financing of the war of 1812 and the Erie Canal.

From 1842 to 1854 they conducted their business in a rented room in the Merchants Exchange building (see 77). During this period members had a regular chair they used during the meetings, hence the members were known to "have a seat" on the Exchange, which subsequently became a requisite for membership.

The Exchange grew even further in power and importance to the nation's financial affairs when they handled the financing of the Civil War. In 1865 they moved into a new building here at 10-12 Broad St., and became the formally structured New York Stock Exchange. This building has been expanded twice, the latest being the addition and completion of the impressive financial "temple" at 8 Broad St. in 1903.

The three national stock exchanges, the New York, American and National, handle about 90% of all trading on organized exchanges in the country . . . and all three are located in the country's financial capital, New York City.

102. Drexel Building - Morgan Guaranty Trust Company 1870-1912 then 1913-present maps 6 and 7 - MC

Antony J. Drexel, a New York investment banker, built the original structure on this site about 1868-70. In 1871 he formed a partnership with John Pierpont Morgan, another prominent New York banker, thus founding the firm of Drexel, Morgan and Company. The firm rapidly became one of the most important players in the financial community.

In 1895 the firm was reorganized as J.P. Morgan and Company, and became one of the most powerful banking houses in the world under Morgan's adroit leadership. They played an active role in the formation and financing of such giant companies as General Electric, United States Steel Corp., and International Harvester, as well as many major railroads. So powerful and successful had "the House of Morgan" become that in 1895 they supplied the United States Government with \$62 million in gold to restore the treasury to its \$100 million level.

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Morgans home was north of here at Madison and 36th St., and was the first residence in New York to be lighted by electricity. Morgan left an estate of about \$70 million when he died in 1913 . . . which in today's dollars would surely be in the hundreds of millions. Morgan was succeeded by his son John Pierpont Morgan Jr., who had joined the firm in 1891.

The original Drexel building was a handsome seven-story structure which adorned its site here on the corner of Broad and Wall St., and exemplified the establishment of Wall St. as the nations emerging financial Capital. It was demolished about 1911 to make room for the new Bank Building.

In 1913 the firm opened their elegant new building on this same site at 23 Wall St., now known as the Morgan Guaranty Trust Co . . . the present building on the site.

Perhaps no other name in the history of our country so personifies the attainment of great wealth and financial power as that of J.P. Morgan. But we should not overlook the role of the investment banking firm in the early building and unification of our country's great industrial and transportation complex. And both father and son gave generously to charities and other worthy causes.

103. Tower Building 1888-unknown map 6 - MC

The first steel skeleton building in the United States was The Home Insurance Co., built in Chicago in 1885. Three years later in June of 1888, the first steel skeleton building in New York began on this site at 50 Broadway.

The Tower Bldg. was designed by Bradford Gilbert, and led the way for the many towering skyscrapers that were soon to follow. The building was completed in 1889, but New Yorkers were skeptical of a building whose walls were supported by an internal frame, and Gilbert himself had to occupy the highest offices on the tenth floor to convince them of its safety.

Today almost two million visitors a year take the elevator ride up to the observation deck on the 107th. floor of the Twin Towers buildings at the World Trade Center, just to admire the magnificent view of the city . . . never giving their safety a second thought.

104. Delmonico's Restaurant (the original) 1827-unknown map 5 - MC

One of the country's most notable restaurant names was that of the famed Delmonico family in New York. The original Delmonico's was opened near this site at what is now 56 Beaver St., in 1827. After a somewhat slow start, it eventually became very popular with New York's high society because of its elegant decor and fine continental cuisine.

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The original building was apparently destroyed in 1835, as it was in the path of the mass destruction resulting from the great fire of 1835 (see map 5). The present old building sitting on the same site at what is now the wedge on the south side of the intersection of Beaver and William Streets, was also occupied by Delmonico's for a period of time.

The restaurant became so successful that they opened a second one on lower Broadway in 1846.

104. Delmonico's Hotel and Restaurant 1846-1876 map 6 - MC

Delmonico's first restaurant at 56 Beaver St. became so successful that they opened a second, in a new hotel-restaurant they had built here at what is now 25 Broadway in 1846. The new hotel and restaurant was even more elegant and fashionable than the first, and the cuisine was equally superb . . . a combination pleasing even the most discriminating New Yorker. On any given night one might look across the elaborately furnished dining room to see an Astor, Vanderbilt, or Fisk . . . or any number of visiting celebrities who frequent the famous restaurant.

As the most fashionable hotels and restaurants began moving uptown towards the later 1800's, so also did Delmonico's in 1876.

To this very day Delmonico's is still considered one of the world's truly great restaurants.

104. Cunard Building then United States Postal Service 1921-present map 7 - MC

Sir Samuel Cunard founded the internationally renowned Cunard White Star Shipping Line from Europe to America in 1840. In 1921, the Cunard Lines opened the present building on this site of the old Delmonico's Hotel at 25 Broadway.

The new Cunard building is known for its beautiful facade, and the vaulted ceilings of the interior vestibules contain frescoes of famous sailing ships and maps of the world, done by master Italian artists. The beautiful building exemplifies the great tradition of the Cunard Lines, who owned such famous ships as the Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth . . . two of the most splendid ocean liners of all time, and both sailed out of the Port of New York.

The United States Postal Service now occupies the building.

105. India House 1854-present maps 6 and 7 - MC

Originally built for the Hanover Bank here at 1 Hanover Square in 1854, India House represents a fine example of the Italianate style of architecture, perhaps the best still surviving here in the city. The beautiful old brownstone was subsequently occupied by the New York

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Cotton Exchange, then later by the firm of W.R. Grace Company. India House is now the home of a private men's club.

106. Saint James Church 1837-present maps 6 and 7 - TR

St. James Roman Catholic Church was built here at the intersection of Madison and James St. in 1837. The old brownstone is a classic example of the Greek Revival style of architecture. The parish hall and school are just across the street.

Former four time governor of the state and 1928 Democratic Presidential Candidate Alfred E. Smith received his only formal education here at St. James.

107. Municipal Building and Civic Center Early 1900's-present map 7 - TC

The area on map seven just to the northeast of City Hall (see 86) surrounding Foley Square, has become the center of the city's government offices. Known as the Civic Center, it consists of several plazas and a collection of buildings built at various times in the past 80 years. Included are such impressive buildings as the Municipal Building (also indicated 107), Police Headquarters, N.Y. City Court House (see 87), Surrogates Court (see 88), U.S. Court House, Federal Building, U.S. Customs Court, Dept. of Health Bldg., and the Criminal Courts Bldg.

The Municipal Bldg. (107) at 1 Centre St. was built in 1914, and became known as the "Gate of the City." The beautiful Eclectic style civic skyscraper straddles Chambers St., and forms a monumental gateway to Police Plaza to the east. The magnificent building is crowned by a 25ft. statue "Civic Fame" standing 580ft. above the street level, a familiar landmark to native New Yorkers. The impressive building has served well in setting the style for the surrounding buildings of the Civic Center around Foley Square.

108. Woolworth Building 1913-present map 7 - TC

The world famous Woolworth Bldg. at 233 Broadway, between Barclay St. and Park Place, was designed by Cass Gilbert, who also designed the U.S. Custom House (see 1). At the time it was completed in 1913 it was the tallest building in the world, and reigned until the building of the Tower at 40 Wall St. in 1929, and also the Chrysler Bldg. (see 79) in 1930.

F.W. Woolworth, who made his fortune as an innovator in the retail merchandising of relatively inexpensive goods, had his personal office on the 24th. floor. Woolworth grew up on a farm, and started his career in retailing as a store clerk. He opened his first successful "five & ten" cent store in 1879. While struggling thru his early years, he introduced the concept of "self service," wherein the customer could select and inspect an item prior to purchasing it from counter displays.

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By 1913 Woolworth had amassed a fortune, and paid the \$13.5 million cost of his new building in cash.

109. World Trade Center 1970-present map 7 - ML-TL

Built at a cost of \$700 million, the World Trade Center houses some 600 business and trade organizations.

The center features a complex of six buildings on a 5-acre plaza, including the famous and often photographed twin towers, and a twenty-story hotel. The 1350 ft. tall towers are the second highest buildings in the world, and the observation deck on the 107th. floor offers a spectacular view of the city.

The Commodities Exchange is on the 9th. floor of #4 World Trade Center, where many commodities such as cotton, coffee, cocoa and silver are bought and sold. The Center's concourse features the city's largest indoor mall, with retail stores, restaurants, banks, and financial and travel services.

Interestingly, the center uses about 2.25 million gallons of water per day, enough electricity to power a city of about 40,000 people, and its inhabitants create about 50 tons of garbage and trash each day.

110. World Financial Center and Battery Park City 1980's-present map 7 - ML

Still under development, the World Financial Center is the commercial core of Battery Park City, the city's latest expansion of its western shoreline into the former waters of the Hudson River. When complete it will feature four towers with seven million square feet of office space, restaurants, retail shops, and a new entertainment and public events center the glass enclosed "Winter Garden."

The residential section will feature fashionable and spacious apartments with a great view of the river and harbor.

111. Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel Entrance 1950-present map 7 - BC

The Brooklyn-Battery tunnel provides a direct link for vehicular traffic between the Battery at the tip of Manhattan Island and the Gowanus Parkway in Brooklyn. Construction of the tunnel began in 1940, but its completion was delayed by World War II. The 11,000ft. long twin tube tunnel was finally opened in 1950. At the time of its completion it was the longest under river ventilated vehicular tunnel in the country.

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112. American Stock Exchange early 1900's-present map 7 - ML-MC

The American Stock Exchange, which was formerly known as the New York Curb Exchange, was built on this site on the west side of Trinity Place in the early 1900's. Like most traders during the early days of the brokerage business, members of the American Exchange used to conduct most of their business outside on the curbside . . . in their case usually on Broad St. just below Wall St.

Securities listed on the American Exchange are permitted to meet somewhat less stringent requirements than those on the New York Stock Exchange (see 101). Also the American Exchange handles a significantly lower volume of transactions than the New York Exchange.

113. Singer Building - then One Liberty Plaza (U.S. Steel Bldg.) 1908-1967 1972-present map 7 - MC

Designed by the noted architect Ernest Flagg, the elegant Singer Building on the corner of Broadway at Liberty St. was opened in 1908. Its 612 ft. rise above street level gave it the title of the world's tallest building for 18 months after its completion. New Yorker's took great pride in the beautiful building, but the relatively small office space it afforded became disproportionate to the rapidly rising land values of the period. In 1964, U.S. Steel bought the land for \$30 million.

In 1972 the new One Liberty Plaza Bldg. was completed by U.S. Steel on the site of the old Singer Bldg.

114. Marine Midland Bank 1967-present map 7 - MC

The Marine Midland Bank Bldg. at 140 Broadway at Liberty St. is a fine example of good utilization of the city's "set-back" code, which permit soaring straight-up walls for buildings with ground level plazas, and buildings occupying less than 40% of their site (see 100).

115. Federal Reserve Bank 1924-present map 7 - MC

The Federal Reserve Bank was built in the Renaissance style and fills the entire block north of Liberty Street between Nassau and William Street. It was designed by Philip Sawyer who studied in Italy. Gold from many foreign countries was stored in five levels beneath the imposing building, making international transactions possible by simply shifting the gold reserves from one vault to another.

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116. Chase Manhattan Bank / Plaza 1960-present map 7 - MC

The rather severe glass and steel structure opened in 1960 on this site on the south side of Liberty, between Nassau and William St. Chase Manhattan was one of the first in the city to provide a plaza for pedestrians, and which features a sunken Japanese garden and sculptures by prominent artists. The prominent sixty-story bank building contains a 35,000 sq. ft. vault 90ft. below street level.

Chase Manhattan is the successor to the old Chase Bank, (after Salmon P. Chase who initiated the national banking system as Secretary of the Treasury under Lincoln) and the original Manhattan Company (see 79 in 1800's).

117. Irving Trust Building 1932-present map 7 - MC

The Irving Trust Bldg. at the prestigious address of 1 Wall St. is a fine example of the "set-backed" vertical wall constructed buildings which became popular after the 1916 zoning regulation. A huge Art Deco mosaic adorns the Wall St. lobby.

118. United States Assay Office 1930-present map 7 - MC

On South St. at Old Slip stands the United States Assay Office, opened in 1930. Activities within this impressive five-story granite building include the refining of gold and silver bullion, and melting of outdated and badly worn coins into bars which are sold to refiners.

119. South Street Seaport Historical District 1979-present map 7 - MR-TR

As our nation's foremost international port city, New York had a rich and colorful maritime history. The proliferation of piers and docks up and down both the eastern and western shoreline peaked in the late 1800's, as can be seen on map 6. virtually every foot of available space along the shoreline was taken for commercial and private docks and piers of all sizes and shapes. And the most famous and colorful district was along the South Street Shoreline, from the area around Peck's Slip all the way down to The Battery Park (see map 6).

Tall sailing ships lined the docks, and sailors from around the world mingled in their favorite haunts, spinning sea stories and enjoying the pleasures of their brief dockside respite from their lonely lives at sea. The protruding bows of the great ships formed a canopy under which the bustling activities of the traders, merchants, dock hands, onlookers, and peddlers with their horse drawn carts and wagons, scurried about. New Yorkers from all walks of life frequented the area, as it afforded many their closest contact with the world beyond our shores, and a sense of excitement and adventure. This colorful scene has inspired the works of many fine artists and

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photographers over the years, including the strikingly beautiful "The Foot of South Street in 1876", by the outstanding contemporary maritime artist John Stobart.

The South Street Historical District was developed to preserve the rich maritime heritage and colorful past of the district. Old sailing ships are permanently docked for exhibit here, including the "Wavertree," built in Southampton, England in 1885. The old iron hulled vessel, once lost her main mast at deck level when rounding Cape Horn during a storm, and put into the Falkland Islands for safe anchorage. The "Peking," a four masted bark built in Hamburg, Germany in 1911, and the 1885 schooner "Pioneer" are also on permanent exhibit here. The old Pioneer still takes public sailing trips during the summer season.

The public buildings which make up the district include both new and restored old buildings, including many shops, galleries, museums and restaurants. Also the famous old Fulton Fish Market still operates in the district, and is open to the public.

Visitors to the South Street Seaport District still experience the sense of excitement and adventure of the past . . . when the grand old sailing ships sailed in and out of New York's harbor, and salty old crews took their leave on the tip of the island.

120. 72 Wall St. - UniDynamics Corporation about 1958 - 1978 map 7 - MC

The building here at 72 Wall St. is the last point of interest shown on the maps. It is probably of little or no historical interest to anyone but the author. Yet I feel it should be included in this book.

It is the building in which the former Corporate Offices of UniDynamics Corporation was located during much of the time I was associated with the company. As a V.P. of a corporate division in Conway, Arkansas, I traveled to lower Manhattan on business trips to the corporate office and other business in the area. While I have always had a keen interest in early American history, it was during the time spent on the tip of the island that I really developed my fascination for the unique and historically rich area. Had it not been for my association with the Corporate Office here on Wall St. this book might never have been written.

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